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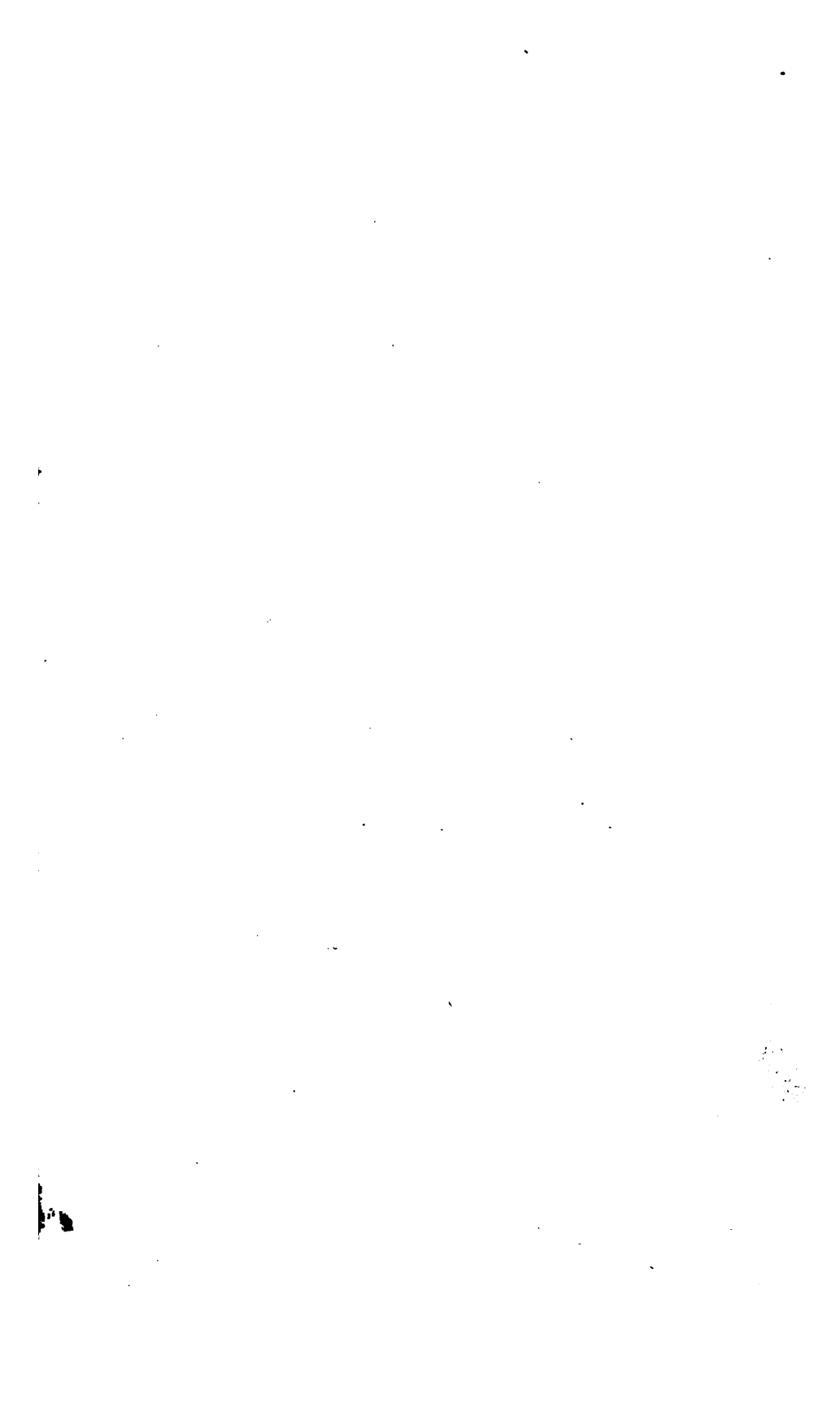
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(Martín-Díez)  
Militia





THE  
**MILITARY EXPLOITS,**  
ETC. ETC.  
OF  
DON JUAN MARTIN DIEZ,  
*The Empercinado.*







## THE EMPÉCINADO

*Published by James Carpenter & Son, Old Bond Street, April 10, 1823.*

THE  
**MILITARY EXPLOITS,**  
ETC. ETC.

OF,  
**DON JUAN MARTIN DIEZ,**

***The Empecinado ;***

WHO FIRST COMMENCED AND THEN ORGANIZED THE  
**SYSTEM OF GUERRILLA WARFARE IN SPAIN.**

TO WHICH IS ADDED  
THAT CHIEFTAIN'S CELEBRATED REPRESENTATION  
TO THE KING OF SPAIN.

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TRANSLATED  
BY A GENERAL OFFICER.

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## **PREFACE.**

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**WHENEVER** a man in an humble station of life bears down every obstacle opposed to his rising above it, and attains, by a series of noble, heroic, and virtuous deeds, both fame and honour, the authentic detail of his actions becomes not only interesting but important. It is interesting to the philosopher, because it presents him with data on which to found his observations on man. It is important to mankind, since it excites emulation, stimulates exertion, and instructs by a brilliant example of that, which virtue, talents, and energy can effect.

Since the *Empecinado* affords a great and living example, the Translator is desirous of making known his history in the English language; and as he can personally vouch for the accuracy of many of the exploits detailed in the following pages, that desire becomes a duty.

N.B. The Notes in this book are by the Compiler, not by the Translator.



# INTRODUCTION,

BY THE

COMPILER OF THIS NARRATIVE.

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THE public papers having scarcely announced any of the services of Don Juan Martin Diez, *the Empecinado*, I having been an eye-witness of them should be ungrateful to my country if I withheld from her the recital of his brilliant actions with the enemy, and his exemplary conduct as a patriot, both of which are calculated to animate and gratify every Spaniard, and to call forth the admiration of every foreigner.

I shall report them without the slightest adulation towards Don Juan Martin, and without the most

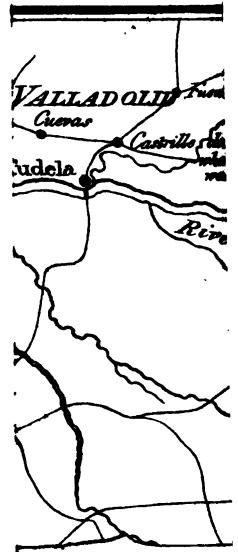
Turner - 16 May 1844

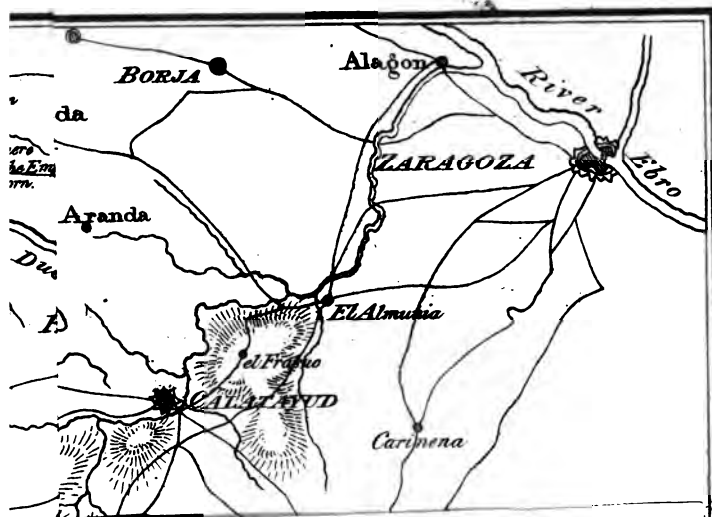
remote intention of creating jealousy by drawing comparisons between the conduct of this most distinguished man and any other of the highly meritorious Spaniards who, following his example, took up arms in defence of their king, their country, their religion, and their families.

I shall divide into two periods the military operations of the *Empecinado*.

**First Period.** His services up to the time of his passing into the province of Guadalaxara.

**Second Period.** From that moment whilst he acted as general at his own discretion, and afterwards under the orders of the general-in-chief of the second army.





THE  
LIFE AND MILITARY EXPLOITS  
OF  
DON JUAN MARTIN.

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**JOHN MARTIN DIEZ**, the subject of this narrative, was born on the 2d of September 1775, in the town of Castrillo de Duero, in the district of Valladolid, in old Castile.

His parents, John and Lucy, were respected peasants descended from persons of the same class; and John Martín, from his infancy, seemed destined to pursue the same course of life as his forefathers. By labouring in the fields he acquired great bodily strength, and gave early proof of the desire he felt to employ it in the service of his country; for, before he had attained his sixteenth year, he ran away from his family and enlisted. He was, however, discharged, at the earnest entreaties of his parents, upon the fair plea of being under age.

His father, it seems, died at the very moment that war was proclaimed against France, at the commencement of the French Revolution. John Martin, following the dictates of his heart, resolved to be a soldier, and instantly volunteered his services during the term of the war. He was admitted as a private into the regiment of *Dragoons of Spain*, in which he served until the peace; and was always distinguished for his gallantry in the field, and for his subordination and regularity in quarters.

At the close of the war he was discharged and returned to his home: soon after he married Catalina de la Fuente, and went to live in the town of Fuentecen, two leagues from Castrillo, and there resumed the labours of the field.

Here he acquired the nickname of *Empecinado*; and here he was when the first division of Napoleon's troops entered Spain\*.

From the knowledge he had acquired,

\* It is generally supposed that Martin was called *Empecinado* because he was very dark, and that it was a name given peculiarly to him; but the fact is, it only became peculiarly *his* nickname, in consequence of the celebrity he so justly acquired; for all the inhabitants of Castrillo de Duero are indiscriminately so called by the neighbouring villages, in consequence of a very black mud being found in a little stream which runs through Castrillo, and which is called *petina*.

during the war, of the character of the French, he conceived towards them the most inveterate antipathy: this was very soon made manifest to his neighbours; for as early as the year 1807, his sense of duty and obedience to the orders of government alone restrained his ardour and prevented his commencing warfare upon these pretended allies. He continually declared these sentiments in his own and the neighbouring towns; and endeavoured to prove that the French troops ought at that moment to have been considered enemies to the country. When he was told that King Ferdinand had passed through Aranda de Duero, he was heard to say, "*The French are an infamous people; Napoléon is the worst among them; and, if Ferdinand once enters France, he will never get out of it, until we go and fetch him.*" This spirited conduct and correct opinion seemed to portend that he was one of those Spaniards destined by Providence to espouse the cause of his country, to defend her, and to free her from the slavery with which she was threatened by the despot of France.

The instant it was known that King Ferdinand was at Bayonne, the Empecinado determined *to make war against the French,*

and at the close of the month of March, having persuaded two of his neighbours to accompany him, he took the field, and thus most justly acquired the title of the *first proclaimer of national liberty*. One of his two companions was a boy of sixteen years old, Juan Garcia, of the town of Cuevas, near to Castrillo.

He took post upon the high road from France to Madrid, close to the village of Onrubia, four leagues from Aranda de Duero, conceiving this spot well calculated for the purpose of intercepting the French couriers. In a few hours he got possession of the correspondence of a courier who escaped only by the fleetness of his horse, but who left behind him the guide and letter bags.

A few days afterwards he intercepted and killed another courier, and thus supplied himself with a horse and arms. He felt convinced that his country would soon make an effort to shake off the foreign yoke, and therefore preserved the letters which he had taken, to present to the government at a favourable moment. The atrocities committed by the enemy at Madrid, on the 2d of May, tore off the mask of these perfidious allies. The Empecinado could now act



openly. The shrieks of the victims of French barbarity rung in his ears; he swore to revenge these martyrs and his injured country, and never to lay down his arms until he had done so. In a few days he persuaded several patriots to join him, and opportunities soon occurred which enabled him to commence the fulfilment of his vow.

He chose the environs of the towns of Fuentenebro, Caravias, Castrillergo, Onrubia, Gumiel Deizan, and the vicinity of Aranda de Duero, as the places for action of this little body of armed men, to whom he looked with confidence to commence carrying into effect the glorious object of his heart.

The inhabitants of these towns can testify that no party of the enemy ever traversed the roads without being attacked, and that many of them paid with their lives a tribute to the gallantry of this band of patriots. Every courier was intercepted; many large convoys of arms, ammunition, clothing, warlike stores, carriages, mules, &c. fell into his hands; and every thing was divided by him amongst the inhabitants of the towns nearest the scenes of action where the captures were made; for at that time there was

no place of safety to which he could send them.

During the months of May, June, and July 1808, the enemy was harassed or attacked by these gallant men, amounting now to twelve in number. There is no doubt but that, in the course of these three months, above six hundred Frenchmen were put to death by Martin and his gallant comrades. They could give no quarter, as there was no depot to which prisoners could be sent. In one day alone, in the beginning of June, ten serjeants and eighty-three soldiers fell by the hands of these patriots, who were often very much assisted by the peasants, who, though unarmed, helped to intimidate (by appearing in bodies), and were not backward in assisting to destroy the stragglers.

Besides consummate valour, Martin displayed great prudence and reflection; he carefully concealed all the intercepted correspondence, with the idea that it might be useful whenever the government of the country was in a state to act; he did not lose a moment in repairing to Valladolid, where he learned that the inhabitants were inclined to resist the conduct of the

French, and threatened to shake off the yoke which the enemy began openly to impose. He presented himself to General Don Gregorio de la Cuesta, who had been appointed Captain General of Old Castile, and delivered to his Excellency the whole of the intercepted correspondence which proved most interesting and useful. Upon this occasion he had an opportunity of fighting the enemy upon the fields of battle of Rio Seco and Cabezon. These actions terminated unfavourably to the Spanish arms: he, however, saved himself only by great presence of mind, and by concealing himself in a porchway in Valladolid.

The barbarous decrees issued by the tyrant Napoleon, and the torrents of blood which were spilt in Castile by his soldiers without any control or remorse alarmed and intimidated the greater portion of its horror-stricken inhabitants; but it had the contrary effect upon Martin; it only served to fan the flame of true courage with which he was animated and to awaken a new desire of vengeance.

He now recruited his party, by offering daily pay and a partition of plunder to all those who should join him and serve under his orders. Many did so, and thus became

protectors of the liberties of their country, by openly and boldly engaging those who threatened to enslave her.

The brave Martin, who lost no opportunity of attacking and harassing the enemy, profited by that which presented itself upon the retreat of the intruder Joseph Buonaparte from Madrid in August 1808. He posted detachments of his now augmented party at different points upon the road from Valladolid to Burgos; and not a Frenchman who fell into the rear, or who straggled from his corps to plunder, escaped. This first assembly of something like a corps under the Empecinado did incalculable injury to the French; since it acted as a great stimulus to other patriots, who, looking with admiration at its conduct, felt inspired with new courage; and either joined it, or formed small parties and endeavoured to imitate its example.

The Empecinado could now venture upon enterprises of greater magnitude; and gave decided proofs of such intrepidity, and yet such cool judgment, as to stamp him for a leader of those who were destined to free his country.

Amongst the early and bold operations of this chief, one in particular deserves notice,

the capture of a convoy, in which was a carriage conveying a female relation or friend of Marshal Moncey. This coach was escorted by twelve soldiers, in the centre of two columns of six thousand men each, about a mile asunder. The Empecinado with eight of his people was concealed close to the town of Caravias. He allowed the leading column to pass, then boldly rushed upon the convoy, put to death the whole of the escort, seized and carried off the carriage; and when the alarm was given, Martin and his prize were in safety in the mountains, and he effectually eluded the long and strict search which was made after him. He was only able to save the life of one of the men servants and of the lady, whom he not only saved, but as she was with child, he sent her to his own house that she might receive care and attention. The convoy turned out a prize of great value; it consisted of money, some jewels, and a variety of ornamental trinkets for women, military effects, such as officers epaulets, gold and silver lace, and sword blades. Martin divided a great portion of these things amongst his men; he took a share himself; but he reserved for the government the principal part, which he placed at the disposal of General Cuesta,

in Salamanca; thus giving an unequivocal proof of his disinterested feelings, for an order had been issued by the government (the central junta), that every thing taken from the enemy by the patriot parties should exclusively belong to them.

It has been the fate of almost every great man to be occasionally persecuted: none have been exempt from struggles with envy, malice, and calumny; and very few have escaped without suffering from their effects.

The fame and conduct of the Empecinado soon drew upon him the envy of the wicked and the weak, who persecuted him with unrelenting assiduity, and never more successfully than when with exultation he presented to General Cuesta that portion of the treasure which he had set apart for the benefit of the nation. But that share which he had left at home excited such envy amongst some of the neighbours that, whilst he was on the march to General Cuesta's headquarters, at Salamanca, these persons accompanied by the police officers broke open his house, and seized upon every thing in it. Upon his return he applied to the magistrates to have his things restored, but the application produced no effect; he therefore set off for Madrid, on the 21st of August, pre-

sented himself to the governor of the council, complained of the conduct of those people \*, and of the magistrates who had favoured them, and denied him common justice. The governor of the council, Don Mons-y-Velarde, having duly considered and examined into the complaints, gave orders to the court of chancery of Valladolid to direct the magistrates of Castrillo and all those persons who were concerned in the affair not only to restore what had been taken from Martin, but to protect him from all further persecution.

Upon his arrival at home, he found that a strong representation had been made against him to General Cuesta, by the same persons. He immediately proceeded to Bulgo de Osma where the general was, and presented himself to him. The nature of the information lodged against him must indeed have been serious, for the general would neither see him nor hear him, but ordered him to gaol.

Martin submitted without a murmur, and was thrown handcuffed into a dungeon. This made a great noise in Bulgo de Osma, and the leading people of the town in a

\* One of them was Don Manuel Frutos, a decided partisan of the French, if public rumour and opinion speak truly.

body represented to General Cuesta, that the extraordinary services of the *Empecinado* were ill recompensed by such treatment, and stated their entire conviction that he was incapable of acting in the manner he was represented to have done by his enemies. The general gave an order to release him, but this order was never communicated to the magistrates, either through neglect, or because the general left the town suddenly to join the army, or from some other motive with which the writer of this memoir is unacquainted, and which he will not conjecture, as he confines himself to the mere recital of facts. Too true it is that this gallant and praiseworthy patriot, who had so nobly laboured in his country's service, and so often exposed his life for her, was now shut up in a gaol, and was confined there until the end of November 1808.

He was thus prevented from joining in the defence of the lines of Burgos which were forced by the enemy on the 10th. of November, and their head quarters established at Aranda de Duero; in which town the lady, whom he had made prisoner and of whom he had taken such care, immediately presented herself and detailed what had occurred; those who accompanied her



from Castrillo in her carriage denounced the Empecinado to be the chief of the party by which she had been made prisoner, and reported his being confined in the gaol of Bulgo. It is evident that no great pains were taken to secure the person of this female prisoner, or she would not have been able to present herself at Aranda de Duero, *in her coach*. It may be inferred that those who aided her to make her escape assisted in keeping Martin in gaol.

The French general immediately detached a column of troops to Bulgo, to bring to him the Empecinado, alive or dead

Martin was told of all that passed at Aranda, as well as of the march of this column. Again a number of the respectable inhabitants were induced to assemble and pray the Alcalde \* and the gaoler to set their prisoner at liberty, or at least remove him to some place of security.

He saw with horror that no attention was paid to these solicitations, and that he was on the point of being delivered up to be murdered. Under this impression he roused

\* The notorious Don Pedro de Castro, whose conduct as President of the Tribunal of Alcaldes of Guadalaxara, and of that of Vigilance of Madrid, when the French evacuated that capital, is well known to all Spaniards.

the utmost energies of his mind and body, and literally struggled with such force as to break his handcuffs; the noise alarmed the gaoler, who flew to the dungeon for the purpose of better securing his victim, in obedience to the order of the Alcalde \*. He took several persons to assist him; but upon opening the door of the cell, the Empecinado immediately sprung forward, threw the gaoler down the stairs, rushed amidst the others, upset them and forced his way through those who vainly attempted to oppose him at the gaol door; he gained the street, and made his escape out of one end of the town at the very moment that the head of the enemy's column entered at another. The officer commanding it expressed the greatest rage and disappointment at losing the prize of which he had anticipated the capture.

Martin, with the hope of getting out of the way of the enemy as fast as possible, proceeded directly to the inn of Fuente Cespe; but he had not arrived there many

\* This good Spaniard made answer to those who besought him to put at liberty the Empecinado, "That it was much better to deliver him up; for by so doing he would prove the good feeling of the town towards the French," and by this sacrifice save it from a contribution.

minutes before the house was surrounded by a party of the French, who prevented the possibility of any person getting out of it unnoticed.

Here again was his ready resource and presence of mind very conspicuous: he ran out to receive them pretending to be one of the stable men. Seven dragoons remained billeted on the house; he attended upon them most diligently, threw them off their guard completely, and profiting by the opportunity which soon offered seized upon the best horse and galloped off with it fully accoutred. Once more free and well armed he forgot all that he had suffered, and only thought of avenging his invaded country. He persuaded his three brothers, Manuel, Damaso, and Antonio, this latter only fifteen years old, to join him *to go and kill Gavachos* (a nickname given to the French); to these he added a few more friends and relations; and this *family compact*, headed by our hero, commenced hostilities at the close of November. Every day did he find means to revenge the insults his country was receiving; at one moment he acted with his little party in a body, at another he posted them two and two at different spots upon the road best calculated to enable them to intercept

couriers, in which they completely succeeded; nor did any stragglers from the columns which passed ever escape. Such was the boldness of the Empecinado himself that one day, whilst alone, he saw two officers of the staff of Napoleon's army riding a little off the road; they had separated themselves about five hundred yards from a column of four thousand men and had entered a farm house, he rushed into the house and made them prisoners. That same day he took a cabinet courier, and judging that the dispatches would be interesting to government, he set off with them to Madrid; but ere he arrived, he found that the enemy had taken possession of the capital, and he could learn nothing of the Spanish authorities, not even in what direction they had retired; the nearest army was that of the English in Salamanca, for which place he set out, leaving his party with the necessary instructions how to act in the neighbourhood of Aranda during his absence.

The roads to Salamanca were covered with French troops, so that he had great difficulty in reaching that city, where he found the English General Moore, to whom he delivered the correspondence. This General's staff received him with the most cordial

marks of attention, furnished him with passports, and presented to him nine hundred dollars, with which he immediately bought horses to mount and increase his party. He was fortunate enough to overcome all the difficulties which presented themselves on his road back, and reached the neighbourhood of Aranda de Duero, where he joined his comrades, now fifteen in number and whom he was able to arm and mount well; and such confidence did he place in them that he never hesitated to attack even double that number of the enemy. The garrison of Aranda was so much intimidated by the gallantry of this party that no small detachment ventured out of the town; and when large ones did so to levy contributions or to plunder, he always attacked them; and, profiting by his knowledge of the country, he so cut up and harassed them that it was with great difficulty they executed their missions, and often totally failed. This continued some time; when about the end of December 1808, a detachment of forty men having been sent to Fuenteduena, the Empecinado attacked it in the pass and killed or made prisoner every man of it. He was now enabled to increase his party to thirty-two well armed men. The French were obliged to

double the number of the original garrison of Aranda de Duero.

On the 18th of the same month Martin heard that sixteen gendarmes under the command of an officer had taken post at the public house called *El Milagro*, which they had fortified : their object was to keep up the correspondence and communications. He attacked and, after a very formidable resistance, made them all prisoners. He treated these men well ; and understanding that a depot for prisoners had been established at Alicante, and that the communication was open, he sent them to that town escorted by peasants, who relieved each other at every village. With the arms and horses which he took upon this occasion he increased the number to forty-eight men, twenty-two mounted, twenty-six on foot, of whom four were wounded in this attack. The garrison of Aranda became so alarmed that no convoy was ever sent out without an escort of two or three hundred men, and even then did the Empecinado always find situations in which to attack them with advantage ; he had so animated the peasants in that neighbourhood that they very often assisted him : thus the enemy always suffered considerably, and were obliged to march with as much

caution and regularity as if in presence of an army : this saved the villages upon the sides of the roads from a great deal of irregular plunder.

The operations of the Empecinado were now of such a character that they were no longer to be looked upon with indifference. It became necessary that the French should devise some mode of destroying him, not only on account of the great losses they were continually suffering, but because his conduct held up a spirit of resistance and so roused the Spaniards that other patriots in imitation of him were collecting in little parties and seriously annoying them; therefore no means were left untried to destroy him. At the close of 1808 several flying columns were formed expressly for that purpose. Reports of the most malignant and injurious kind were spread by the French in order to vilify him and his party; they were represented as robbers, and every town, village, magistrate, or private individual, who should afford the Empecinado or his followers the smallest assistance, was threatened with the severest penalties and punishments; but these threats were all vain, and equally so were the exertions of these various columns; for our hero was wary in his movements, and

knew well by countermarches and extreme vigilance how to escape from and laugh at the enemy. He gave to his little corps the rest it required in the outhouses and sheds of the detached farms, and saved the villages from persecution by *apparent* violence and open force; for he dragged out as prisoners the Alcaldes, and detained them until he received his supplies.

He now resolved to attack the inn called *El Fraile*, upon the high road to Burgos, in which a company of gendarmes was posted for the purpose of keeping up the communications between the surrounding garrisons, none of them very distant. The attack was successful; he compelled them to surrender in the course of the night by threatening to set fire to the house. At daybreak, when he was on the point of moving off with his prisoners, he observed some waggons coming towards him escorted by a party of French dragoons. Unaccustomed to hesitate, he instantly resolved on attacking the enemy, and the more readily, as he calculated upon deceiving them; for it was probable that they would at first suppose his party to be their friends, as Martin's band had put on the hats, belts, &c. of the French. He charged them with the few of his party who



were not employed with the prisoners and so surprised them that he succeeded in killing or taking prisoners thirty-four dragoons of which the escort consisted. The convoy thus fell into his hands, and with the number of horses and arms he had now taken he was able in a few days to increase his little corps to seventy well mounted and appointed men. He sent a strong detachment to escort the prisoners, and moved off with the rest to lodge in a place of security the waggons which contained valuable effects and all the money belonging to three regiments of cavalry. The detachment with the prisoners was soon released from its duty and saved the trouble of proceeding; for, in passing through the town of *Aranso*, in which the French had very lately been guilty of the most atrocious excesses, the inhabitants put to death the whole of the prisoners, notwithstanding every exertion on the part of the escort to save them. The Empecinado with his party reached the town of *Ciruelas* late at night, and as the roads were almost impassable for horses, and positively so for carriages, he was compelled to halt there; at daybreak he found the town surrounded by seven hundred dragoons who had been con-

ducted thither by a base and traitorous inn-keeper. The Empecinado and his party hastily mounted their horses, and gallantly cut their way through the cordon formed by the enemy; Martin received a sabre wound, and lost three men killed and nine made prisoners: the waggons of course fell into the hands of the enemy, and with the prisoners were carried off to Aranda de Duero, where these nine men were put to death; and for a considerable time afterwards every prisoner that was made by the French shared the same fate.

However, neither this conduct nor a barbarous decree of the Governor of Aranda to seize upon Martin's mother, as it was said, to put her to death could produce any alteration in his conduct, or make him relax in the slightest degree his exertions in the glorious cause he had espoused; his people had been dispersed, but he succeeded in bringing them together and carried on his operations in the neighbourhood of Segovia with extraordinary success. The commandant of that town, unaccustomed to have his detachments molested in their progress whilst levying contributions, sent out a number of small parties for that purpose. Our little

band of patriots did not fail to take advantage of these opportunities and revenge themselves on the French for their conduct at Aranda. They also fell in with and destroyed a detachment escorting a convoy, in which was a quantity of plate stolen from different churches\*.

In the month of January and part of February 1809, Martin again carried on the war with great success in the neighbourhood of Aranda as well as about Segovia, Sepulveda, and Pedraza; into this last town he boldly entered at night with the hope of surprising the garrison; he, however, only succeeded in destroying those whom he found in the streets. Persons who are acquainted with the situation of this town walled round and with an old castle will best know how to appreciate the gallantry of the enterprise: such was the effect of it upon the French that they immediately reinforced all their garrisons in the neighbourhood, redoubled their vigilance, and sent columns in search of our hero; he avoided them by

\* The Empecinado kept this plate concealed until he passed with his corps into the province of Guadalaxara, where he learned that the Junta and the Intendant were collecting all the church plate for the purpose of coining. He delivered over to these authorities the whole of that which he had taken.

removing rapidly to the neighbourhood of Santa Maria de Nieve, where he concealed his party four or five days, during which time he took from the enemy above one hundred horses and killed or made prisoners above two hundred and fifty men; amongst the latter an aid-de-camp of the intruder Joseph, the General Franceski, and twenty-nine other officers. These successes so alarmed the enemy that several columns were immediately marched against Martin, but without success; his little corps which now consisted of one hundred and twenty well mounted and appointed men, though very much encumbered with these prisoners, effected their escape without losing a man. At this moment the commandant of the garrison of Aranda de Duero made prisoner the aged and infirm mother of our hero, and lodged her in a dungeon of the gaol in that town—a barbarous mode of endeavouring to check the ardour of her son. They little knew his mind or heart; both were exclusively devoted to the hope of saving his oppressed country and of assisting to restore her to liberty; and no earthly consideration could for a moment make him swerve, or give a different direction to his patriotic spi-

rit; he passionately loved and respected his mother: yet he did not for one instant hesitate, but by redoubling his exertions proved that he was not to be restrained.

The force which had been sent against him was so overwhelming that he could only think of saving his corps and lodging the prisoners in one of the depots. For these purposes he took the direction of the mountains of Avila; and by night marches and great precaution he succeeded in avoiding all the garrisons in that neighbourhood, and escaped from a strong column which had no other object than to take him, and which followed him to the Ferry of El Barco in the district of Avila. The march of the Empecinado was a military operation which would have done credit to the most experienced general; for he reached Ciudad Rodrigo the nearest town garrisoned by Spaniards, without having lost one single prisoner, although so great was the fatigue and such the privations he underwent that many of his own people abandoned him; they, almost all, however, went to their respective homes to carry on hostilities after the manner of the corps they had left. He arrived with only fifty mounted men, and

lodged the prisoners in the depot of Valencia de Alcantra\*.

In obedience to an order from the Captain General of Castile, Martin joined the advanced guard of the army of that province, and received many and the most important commissions from the General-in-chief, all of which were executed to the entire satisfaction of that officer and to the benefit of the country.

In the month of May, the town of Bejar being threatened by a force very superior to that which the Spaniards had to defend it, Martin was detached to its support, and succeeded in driving back the enemy with some loss; he also harassed them considerably in their retreat.

From the various gallant actions I have already detailed the General-in-chief deemed Martin worthy of recompense from his country, and recommended him to the Government (the Central Junta) to be made a captain of cavalry. He received his commis-

\* His kind conduct to these people during the march, from none of whom was the smallest thing taken, made such an impression upon General Franceski that he wrote to the Governor of Aranda, praying that Martin's mother should be set at liberty; and she was accordingly allowed to return to her home.

sion, and though he wanted no stimulus to continue his indefatigable exertions, yet this mark of distinction was gratifying to him, as it gave him more weight and consideration amongst his countrymen.

He continued to act with the advanced guard of this army from the middle of April until the beginning of July 1809, during which time his gallantry was conspicuous in the various attacks which he made and resisted; and his persevering activity and enterprise were the theme of continued praise in the neighbourhood of *San Felices delos Gallegos*, *Santi Espiritu*, *Salamanca*, and *Ciudad Rodrigo*—the immediate scenes of his different actions: his name now became universally known, and the conduct of the Empecinado gained the admiration of the whole peninsula, and forced respect even from the French.

In the month of July, when the armies under Marshals Soult and Ney evacuated Galicia and marched to take possession of the *Pass el Puerto de Banos* and fall upon Talavera, the Empecinado with about one hundred men kept sight of the enemy day and night, and gave constant advice of their movements. He hung upon their rear and flanks, perpetually harassing them, and at

night keeping them in constant alarm by false attacks, destroying or making prisoners all those who fell in the rear or straggled from the columns, and thus preventing a great deal of plundering and the excesses which would have been committed, had the enemy been allowed to straggle with impunity. Strong detachments and columns for the purpose of levying contributions of course succeeded in their object, but always with loss, and the indefatigable Martin by his persuasion and example raised such a spirit of enthusiasm amongst the peasants of the *Sierria de Francia*, across which country the enemy were about to march, that above four thousand men armed with fowlingpieces and some firelocks took up positions in various commanding points, according to the directions of the Empecinado, and so effectually resisted all the efforts of the enemy that this part of the country, abounding at that time with provisions, remained untouched; and the French almost starving were forced to hasten their march across this chain of mountains without being able to obtain a mouthful of provisions.

After having completed this important operation, our gallant Captain received the intelligence of Salamanca being left by the



enemy with a very small garrison and a number of sick and wounded in the hospitals; as his presence was no longer required at the *Puerto de Banos*, he marched for Salamanca with about one hundred and forty men, made the garrison prisoners, and removed them (together with all the sick who were reported by the surgeon fit to march) to Ciudad Rodrigo.

A detachment of three hundred dragoons was sent against him from Medina del Campo, with full expectation of destroying his little corps and retaking Salamanca. He armed some of the inhabitants, posted them at the entrance of the town, to cover his retreat if necessary, and to assist in defending the town to the last extremity; which he found was the wish of the people, who had shown to his corps the greatest kindness. He marched out to meet this detachment; and taking post at the pass called *el Rollo* he fell upon the enemy, and after a desperate conflict succeeded in completely routing them. They left above fifty dead or badly wounded upon the field. At a moment the most critical of the action the Empecinado was joined by a troop of eighty men who decided this affair in which such was the su-

periority of the enemy in numbers and so determined their charge that nothing but the most obstinate gallantry on the part of the Empecinado and his troops could have resisted it.

Having given a few days rest to his people in Salamanca, and hearing that the enemy made frequent incursions for the purpose of plunder in the neighbourhood of Toro, he marched for that place with about one hundred and thirty men; but at Guadalete he was suddenly attacked by two hundred and fifty dragoons, who charged him with such vigour that a dispersion of some of his people took place, and he hastily retreated with the rest, but in such good order and with such good judgment that he was pursued but a very little way. In this retreat he fell in with a courier and his escort consisting of above thirty men, all of whom he made prisoners and sent off instantly to the Duque del Pargue. Judging by the strong escort that the dispatches were of consequence, he sent an officer and twenty men to accompany these people. But neither the officer nor any one of the men ever joined him after; whether they conceived that the service under him was too severe,

or whether they were detained in the army, or broke up into lesser parties he never heard.

He now received orders to act in the neighbourhoods of Valladolid, Segovia, and Aranda, for the purpose of harassing the enemy.

He marched with this intent, and in *Pedrosa del Rey* fell in with a party of one hundred and twenty men, cavalry and infantry. He did not give them time to form, but boldly charged and routed them: many were killed on both sides, and the greater number of the enemy's infantry laid down their arms. In this affair the French Commandant and the Empecinado singled one another out, and a desperate fight took place. The Frenchman wounded the Empecinado by a thrust of the sword which ran through his arm and penetrated into his side. This served but to increase his courage and double his exertions: he avoided another blow, seized the French Commander by the neck, dragged him off his horse, fell with him, but kept the upper hand: both were disarmed and struggled violently: the Frenchman would not surrender; the Empecinado collared him with one hand, and with the other snatched up a stone and put

him to death. After this bold affair in which the gallantry of every man of his corps was conspicuous, he was obliged to retire to Poyos to recruit his people and to give both himself and his men time to recover from their wounds.

It was not long before he was again able to take the field, and the excesses of the enemy about Aranda led him in that direction. On his way he paid a visit to Castrillo, to see his mother and family. The arrival of Captain Martin in his native village caused considerable sensation; his conduct on this occasion afforded the strongest proof of his magnanimity, whilst it left no doubt as to the identity of the persons who had in 1808 so vilely calumniated him to General Cuesta, who had robbed his house, and ultimately so basely endeavoured to betray him to the enemy. The moment he approached Castrillo these people fled from the village and concealed themselves. He found them all out, and had them brought to him; he then reproached them bitterly, not for their past conduct, but for their timidity, which he said must have proceeded from the bad opinion which they had chosen to form of his character; he invited them to dine with

him, offered them his friendship and protection, succoured with money those among them who were indigent, and took leave of his family and friends with all the affection of a son and the humility of an humble peasant.

The garrison of Aranda very soon felt by the losses which it daily suffered that the Empecinado was in its neighbourhood; several small convoys were taken, escorts destroyed, and many prisoners made. Our hero was destined however to change the scene of action. The Junta and Intendant of Guadalajara earnestly solicited Martin to protect that province which was occasionally overrun by a handful of the enemy detached from Madrid for the purpose of levying contributions and of plundering. They made official representations to him of the melancholy state to which the province was reduced, and sent commissioners to offer him and his troops every assistance.

The Empecinado, aware that the picture which they had drawn of the distresses of Guadalajara was not too highly coloured, and desirous of affording assistance to those who stood most in need of it, consented to march his little corps to their relief, and accordingly presented himself to the Junta

upon the 11th of September 1809, at the head of one hundred and seventy mounted and tolerably well armed and appointed men. He divided this corps into three troops, reserving the command of one (as well as the general command) to himself; he gave the command of the second to his cousin Mariano de Navas, and of the third to Don Segundo Antonio Berdugo.

His arrival raised the dejected spirits of the inhabitants, and gave a stimulus to a display of loyalty, persevering constancy, and patriotism which should for ever rank the people of the province of Guadalajara amongst the most devoted patriots, and obtain for them a distinguished place in the page of history.

We now find our hero in the centre of Spain, surrounded by the enemy, without the smallest aid from any military chief; there being none in the province, not a Spanish soldier within a hundred miles of him; no assistance therefore to be expected, no combinations, no simultaneous operations; in fine, no where could he look for the slightest support.

Thus situated, I have thought it fair to call this moment the commencement of the second period of the military life of this extraordinary man.

*Second Period of the Services of the  
Empecinado.*

FROM the moment he entered the province of Guadalajara, he sought every means to prove to its inhabitants his entire devotion and the desire which animated him to be useful to the fullest extent of the powers of his small corps; for this purpose, so early as the 16th of September (four days after his arrival), he entered the town of *Cogolludo*, and, whilst making his arrangements to reconnoitre the town of Guadalajara, he received intelligence of the march of a detachment of ninety infantry and twenty dragoons from the garrison of that town, to levy contributions; he pushed forward with two troops of his cavalry, surprised this detachment in the town of Fontanar, completely routed it, killing six men and taking seventeen prisoners; he followed up the pursuit to the very gates of Guadalajara, in which was a garrison of three thousand men of the corps of General Sebastiani.

It soon became known in the province of Cuenca that the Empecinado had commenced operations in that of Guadalajara,

and the Commandant of Cuenca, the Marquis of Atalayelas, called upon Martin to assist him to drive out the garrison of that city: he readily agreed to join in the operation, and the Marquis approved of the plan given in by Martin; it succeeded in the first instance, for the enemy was drawn out of his strong hold; but the Marquis failed in the combined attack which was to have been made and without firing a shot retired. The Empecinado (after boldly resisting the enemy's whole force for some time) was obliged to do the same, and fell back upon Yunquera. Five hundred infantry and ninety dragoons pursued him; but the irregularity with which the French infantry advanced (they looked with great contempt upon the insurgents) was not overlooked by Martin; he seized a favourable moment, charged them, and became in his turn the pursuer; they retreated to Cuenca, followed a considerable distance by our noble Castilian, who displayed upon this occasion a courage worthy the Cids and Pelayos. The enemy was above three times his force.

He returned immediately to Guadalajara, where the perfidious traitor Don Raymon Salas, appointed Intendant by the intruder Joseph, had formed several flying columns



to be perpetually in motion, for the express purpose of destroying him. He had promised the Governor General of Madrid to accomplish this if he sent the necessary reinforcements: it now remained to be proved whether the task was so easy as Salas declared it would be. Marches and counter-marches were made, but all to no effect; Martin baffled every plan; and the wretch Salas, who boasted of the little trouble and difficulty there would be in destroying our hero and how foolish it was to feel any alarm at this band of insurgent robbers, now shook with fear upon his seat of office, although surrounded by French bayonets.

The very name of Martin the founder of Guerilla warfare terrified the base Salas; he saw our hero not only capable of frustrating his combinations but of acting like a consummate general, at one time prudently retiring before the enemy and seducing them into difficult situations, in which favoured by the ground he harassed them to death; at other times drawing their infantry into the open country where his cavalry could act with effect. This was particularly the case in the affairs on the 29th of September and the 14th of October, in the plains of *Fuente Higuera* and *Alvares*.

In Moernando he was attacked by a force more than double his own. The enemy made no impression; on the contrary they were forced after considerable loss to fall back upon Guadalupe, and vented their brutal rage upon four of Martin's soldiers whom they had made prisoners, and whom they inhumanly shot upon their arrival in that town. The Empecinado's loss was considerable, and he felt it; but particularly the fate of the four martyrs to their country who had been thus butchered, and he vowed to be revenged: he commenced by taking post in the neighbourhood of Guadalupe and harassing the garrison day and night. If small detachments were sent out he attacked and drove them back; if they remained within the town they had no rest; and every night their picquets were attacked, their sentries shot or carried off.

On the 28th of October 1809, a strong column was pushed out to levy contributions. He posted himself advantageously, fell upon its flank, threw it into disorder, and drove it back from whence it came.

Very few days afterwards, another and a stronger column marched out. He hung upon it until he found a favourable moment to attack it, which he did at Torriga. The

action lasted several hours with severe loss on both sides; but he succeeded in preventing the enemy from continuing their march, for he kept them in check until relieved by a very superior force, when they returned to Guadalaxara.

The French now became seriously alarmed; for in addition to the gallantry and enterprise of the Empecinado they found that by his exemplary conduct and that of his soldiers he had so won the affections of the people and so entirely gained their confidence that a number of young men of the province armed themselves and joined his corps. In the beginning of November he found himself at the head of one hundred and forty men mounted and forty infantry; and every day added to his numbers.

The enemy looked with a very jealous eye upon the progress of this corps, and having learned from experience that it was in vain to reckon upon surprising or destroying it by the ordinary means to which they had hitherto resorted, they had recourse to stratagem, and planned a false retreat from Guadalaxara. They carried their project into effect on the 12th of November, and retired apparently upon Madrid; but halted

at Alcala de Menares, where they were considerably reinforced.

The moment the enemy evacuated Guadalaxara the Empecinado took possession of it; and having posted picquets upon the roads leading to it and having taken all the necessary precautions, he proceeded to the national cloth manufactory, from whence he took a considerable quantity of cloth which he sent off to the Intendant Don Joze Lopez Juana.

The extraordinary joy demonstrated by the inhabitants of this capital and other motives of policy induced the Empecinado to remain all night at Guadalaxara. This was precisely what the French wanted. Their spies gave notice of it; and a column of two thousand five hundred men cavalry and infantry, led by a man who was well acquainted with the country, avoiding the roads, reached the suburbs of the town and forded the river without being discovered; so that at the break of day on the 13th the city was completely surrounded and the column destined to force its way into the town was already engaged with the Spanish picquets. The gallant Martin assembled his little corps with great rapidity and endeavoured to pass through one of the gates, but

found the enemy in such force that it was impossible; he however cheered his men and boldly rushed out of another gate, where the enemy though in equally great force was so astonished at his intrepidity as to give way, and this gallant little troop cut a passage through the cordon which had been formed for its destruction: Martin's loss was seven men killed and sixteen wounded and made prisoners. Amongst the killed of the enemy was the commander of the column who had planned the operation.

The enemy scrutinized minutely the conduct of the Empecinado whilst he was in Guadalupe, and became assured of his worth and integrity by the honourable way in which he had conducted himself towards the inhabitants and the sick of the French garrison, and by the love which they learned his soldiers bore towards him; therefore they were no longer surprised at the benevolence with which he treated his prisoners, and deemed it right to change their conduct towards him; for they were now convinced that however implacable he was as an enemy, yet he had rigidly observed the laws of war towards his prisoners ever since the action at Fontenar. These considerations and perhaps sinister motives

(which however produced no effect upon the high mind of our Castilian) induced the French, although they abused his people and called them brigands in their public papers, to treat them most kindly, instead of putting them to death which they had done up to this period. The lives of the sixteen prisoners were spared, and ever afterwards his men who fell into their hands were considered soldiers of a regular army. Mutual good treatment of prisoners had been always the desire of the Empecinado; but the atrocities committed by the French had made it impossible to prevent retaliation until his little troop assumed the shape of a disciplined corps: he then accomplished it; and that arm which in the field of battle hurled like a thunderbolt destruction upon the enemy was never tired of administering relief and comfort to his prisoners, and his manly heart mourned over his comrades who were slain.

The defeat of the Spanish troops at Ocana placed at liberty so great a force of the enemy that many columns were sent to levy contributions in the Alcarria. The Empecinado had several smart actions with some of the first of these columns; but their superiority compelled him to cross the Tagus and con-

fine himself to the mere observation of their movements upon the left bank of that river. A combined march of the troops from the Alcarria (who passed the river by the bridges of Aunon and Pariga), to join those who were in the province of Cuenca, placed the Empecinado in a most critical situation. However from between these two divisions he extricated his little corps with his accustomed serenity and vigilance; and even commenced active operations in the rear of the enemy. On the 24th of December he planned an attack upon a detachment of dragoons in the town of Mazarulleque which he reached at night, and so completely surprised them that not a man would probably have escaped (although he found five hundred and fifty men there, and only expected to meet fifty \*); but just before daybreak, a reinforcement of three hundred more dragoons and one thousand infantry arrived, and obliged the Empecinado to retire: he was closely pursued and must have been cut to pieces, had not every man of his corps emulated their gallant chief, and by extraordinary coolness and intrepidity checked the enemy so seriously at the first pass they

\* Those fifty had been joined in the evening by five hundred dragoons.

reached that they effected their escape with the loss of only twenty-five men killed and wounded and twenty horses; he severely felt the loss of his brave subaltern, Don Segundo Antonio Burdugo, who, after gallantly defending himself against superior numbers, surrendered upon condition that his life was to be spared; yet this brave man was hanged in the city of Huete \* !

The failure of this enterprise only served to increase the exertions of Martin: his men and horses were a good deal harassed by the fatigue of the late operations, and the pressure in this last retreat. He, therefore, devoted some days to refreshing and organizing them; and on the 1st of February 1810, repassed the Tagus, and again stationed himself close to Guadalajara, to keep in check that garrison which had robbed and plundered the country with impunity during his absence.

On the 14th of the month, the Empecinado wrote to the Renegade Intendant Salas a letter (in answer to two from that

\* This cruel and ungenerous conduct was attributed to a General Demaipices, who had only just arrived in the province of Guadalajara, and to whom, the favourable opinion that was entertained by the French army of the conduct of the *Empecinados* (as they were now called), was not known.



debased Spaniard) in which he pointed out, with a simplicity and good feeling natural to him, the difference between a real Castilian, faithful to his king and country, and a vile Renegade who sought by base and low intrigue to win over the noble Martin and his companions in arms, so that he might quietly enjoy the fruits of his infamously acquired wealth. The Empecinado had hitherto refrained from answering this wretch's letters, in the expectation that silence would put an end to his hopes of seducing him from his loyalty ; but the repetition made it necessary for Martin to send him his determination. This intriguer had with great art and cunning spread abroad reports of a correspondence being carried on between our hero and the French government, and the wish of Martin to join King Joseph : indeed a letter, or rather a safeguard from General Belliard the Governor of Madrid, which accompanied the last letter of the Intendant's, breathed these very sentiments and were calculated to make that impression : however, the public acts and heroic deeds of Martin were sufficient to contradict these base insinuations. I copy these letters to exhibit both parties in their true colours. These are not the only

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ones which he received from various persons with a view to seduce him, but they are the only *originals* which have fallen into my hands, and I faithfully copy them.

No. 1.

*Letter from the Intendant Salas to Don Juan Martin.*

Guadalajara, 21st January, 1810.

“ DEAR SIR,

“ Good men may adopt a line of conduct, and discharge their duties in that line up to a certain point with good faith and honesty; but beyond that all is obstinacy, and is unpardonable.

“ I consider you to be precisely in this situation: you proposed to yourself to serve your country, you espoused her cause and followed the part she took, and have sustained her by every means in your power; you have gained a reputation even amongst your enemies well deserved from the numerous good qualities with which you are endowed; you have done every thing you could or can do: but surely you must see that all the efforts you hereafter make in

the support of this desperate cause will be vain and fruitless, and will only add to the calamities of your country, in whose welfare you are so much interested and for which you have so incessantly laboured. The very same feelings which have hitherto guided you and your natural honourable sense of duty should induce you now to listen to me and save your country from further scenes of bloodshed.

“After the victories gained by the French at Almonacid and Ocana; peace concluded between France and Austria; fresh troops continually pouring into Spain; can any sensible man, I would ask, doubt the success of our undertaking? I beseech you, reflect upon this: do not suffer yourself to be led away by vain hopes or expectations which can never be realised, and by an enthusiasm that is the more incompatible with common sense in proportion as it is the more exalted. At this moment the interest of the country is *your* interest; listen then to these combined interests, and they convince you that it is time to join the friends of a good, virtuous, and just king, a king whose only object is to love and be beloved by his subjects. This illustrious prince, who feels no greater pleasure than in pardoning offences commit-

ted against him, authorizes me to endeavour to gain you over to his side; and offers every protection and security to you and your family; he ensures you the rank and military honour you enjoy, and additional rank in proportion to the services you may hereafter perform. As a man of honour, I assure you that these promises will be religiously observed; and if any doubts should rest upon your mind, I am ready by the fullest explanation to remove them. The accompanying letter of the Governor of Madrid, you will see, affords you the necessary security for the purpose of entering this town. You can then consult with me or with the military governor, and be at liberty to act afterwards as you may think fit; or if you do not like to treat directly with us, an Aid-de-camp of General Belliard's shall meet you at whatever place you may appoint; and the military governor of this province and myself are ready to do the same if you wish it; in short, we are all disposed to follow any plan that you may point out; or, if you choose the negotiation to be carried on by letter, contrive at least that our correspondence may be secure and frequent, in the full assurance that whoever is entrusted with your letters shall have safe convoy both

to and from this place. Weigh well and coolly what I propose to you, *Signor Don Juan\**, and profit of the moment that presents itself; for if it passes, there may hereafter be no remedy. Every man under your orders shall be protected and advanced in the line of life he may choose to follow, and you may at once with perfect security enter into treaty with them upon the subject. Let us forget the past; for my part I avail myself of this opportunity to offer you my friendship if you will receive it, and to assure you that I will be a faithful and sincere friend.

“RAMON SALAS,  
“The Intendant of Guadalaxara.”

## No. 2.

*From General Belliard, Governor General of Madrid, to Don Juan Martin, the Empecinado.*

“THE Governor General of Madrid understanding that the chief Empecinado is desirous of acknowledging the authority of King Joseph and to be received into his favour;

\* Familiar manner not to be translated literally, for it would then be Mr. John; but it answers to the English custom of addressing a friend by his Christian name.

having learned too by an official communication that the Empecinado saved the life of General Franceski, one of his Majesty's Aid-de-camps; the Governor General of Madrid pledges his word of honour, that the Empecinado may with safety enter personally into Guadalaxara, and will there receive for himself and family every protection from both the laws and the French army.

“BELLIARD,  
“Governor General of Madrid.”

No. 3.

*Letter from the Intendant Salas to Don Juan Martin.*

“Guadalaxara, Feb. 5th, 1810.

“DEAR SIR,

“As I have received no answer to the letter I sent you by the hands of my friend, I write this to repeat all those assurances and offers which I made to you; for your own sake, as well as for that of the country which you wish to serve, I ardently pray you to be convinced of the benefit which would result from your joining a good king who is loved by all those who know him, and by your accepting those favours and recompenses

which he so graciously offers you through me.

"I implore you then, Signor Don Juan, to take advantage of the auspicious moment; let not the golden opportunity pass: If you do, I know not to what you can have recourse for salvation, for you will be persecuted without any cessation; rest assured there will not be a corner of the peninsula which will not be overrun by the numerous French troops which are every hour pouring into Spain. The whole of the Andalusias have submitted to King Joseph, and overwhelm him with their prayers: the Junta of Seville has fled precipitately, having first given up Ceuta to the English our eternal enemies; and will you not contribute, as far as with you rests, to prevent those evils which a useless resistance may still entail upon the country. I wish very much we could talk this matter over together, and I leave you to select the spot where we might meet; but this recollect, that if you choose to come to this town, it is with me you must lodge, and I will with my own person be the guarantee of the safety of yours. The military governor of the province is equally desirous to see you; but if you should prefer it, the Governor General of Madrid will

send an aid-de-camp to meet you wherever you shall appoint. Reflect upon these proposals, and be assured they are made to you in good faith and sincerity and as a friend.

“RAMON SALAS,  
“Intendant of Guadalajara.”

No. 4.

*The Empecinado's Letter to the Intendant Salas,  
in Answer to both of the preceding ones.*

“MR. SALAS,

“I HAVE received both your letters, one of the 21st of January, the other of the 5th February, and I have read them with the greatest attention. In answer, I say, that we were in the full enjoyment of peace, and in the strictest alliance with France, and our monarchy was complete with our legitimate and beloved King Ferdinand VII. who, as you know, was fully authorized to reign by his father and by the Spanish nation: therefore I do not acknowledge any other king; and I conceive these my sentiments to be precisely those of all the rest of his subjects; and whilst I declare this, I feel a sense of those ties of mutual duties between a sove-



reign and his people; the more when I call to mind the oath of allegiance which I voluntarily took at the age of sixteen. I hold that oath to be sacred, nor will I violate it whilst I live; and in support of it, I am ready to sacrifice my life, as I have already done my little property. Such were the feelings which actuated me when I first took up arms, and I have never deviated from those principles. You yourself acknowledge that my conduct has gained for me the favourable opinion and estimation even of my enemies. If they are lovers of justice, they must allow that in proportion as I have gained their estimation, so have I proved the justice of my cause; towards them I have never forgotten to act according to the laws of war. Those who surrendered to me have been treated as prisoners of war, and with the greatest humanity; nor did I pay less respect to the rank and dignity of that distinguished officer General Franceski, as you perceive by the letter of General Belliard; nor were seventeen officers of the staff, together with a general of the empire, made prisoners last August less well treated; they were safely conducted by my orders and placed at the disposal of the Central Junta.

" It is unnecessary to take up your time by a recapitulation of the number of officers and soldiers made prisoners and treated with equal kindness: the fact is publicly known; and your king is aware of the truth of this assertion. Under this conviction I lived in hopes that the French army would have acted with the same liberality and an equal love of justice towards me and those who act under my orders; but, alas! a continued series of barbarities have destroyed those hopes.

" The inhuman and shameful confinement of my aged, innocent, and beloved mother in the loathsome prison of Aranda de Duero for six months!

" Nine of my soldiers made *prisoners of war* were hanged in the very town of Sigüenza! a scandal to humanity!

" Four others made prisoners in the affair of Moernando, inhumanly shot, in Guadalupe!

" The unheard of cruelty towards my second in command, Don Segundo Antonio Berdugo, strangled in the town of Hueto, an act that makes my blood run cold! How are these barbarous proceedings to be justified?

" How unlike my conduct towards the

prisoners made in the affair of Mazazul-  
 que! well might I have murdered them  
 with such acts on your part staring me in  
 the face; it would have been but just reta-  
 liation; you are well convinced of the truth  
 of what I have stated, and you cannot for  
 a moment, sir, look upon the part I take as  
 an unnatural one; nor can you imagine the  
 cause I have espoused to be a desperate  
 one; however, be it as it may, it is that  
 which I shall follow whilst I live, and it is  
 that in defence of which I shall die; I say  
 this not through obstinacy, but because I  
 conceive it my duty. I am not to be in-  
 timidated by the threat of the numerous  
 corps of French occupying every hole and  
 corner of the peninsula, nor by the vile title  
 of *Chief of Banditti* with which the French  
 have honoured me. The glory to which I  
 aspire is that of dying in this just cause, in  
 the service of my country, of my religion,  
 and of my legitimate king; but never in  
 that of Joseph the Intruder, whom I never  
 will acknowledge to be the sovereign of  
 Spain. I am astonished that General Bel-  
 liard in his official letter should have ventured  
 to assert the contrary; his Excellency must  
 not be surprised at my contradicting his

assertion, which is so injurious to my fair fame, and the reputation to which I aspire, and hope to merit, from my king and my country. If what General Belliard states were true, and that I was anxious to join Joseph, why should that *gracious monarch* find it necessary to take the trouble of *authorizing* you to *use every endeavour to seduce* me from my allegiance and to join him? If he be a king so graciously prone to pardon people, why require any thing more from me than the simple request which *I am stated to have made* to be admitted into his grace and favour? I know not what *his* virtues are, but I never can forget *those* of my beloved Ferdinand VII.

“ I value not my life without honour; and all those distinctions which you promise me with your protection would only blacken my character and destroy that reputation which I have laboured to establish, and which, up to this moment, is without a stain. I cannot understand for what act of mine I should look to *your king* for pardon? I carry on a *defensive* war; where then can be the crime? this very fact relieves my mind and conscience of any burthen they might otherwise labour under for carrying on the war.

No, I feel convinced that I shall be mildly judged hereafter by that Supreme Being whose holy religion I profess.

“ I might have been weak enough to put faith in the promise you made me in your letter of the 21st of January, *of safety to my person* ; but I must have been an *idiot* not to see through your double dealing, and to remark that there was a great contradiction between your *promise* and your mode of acting, for at the very moment you wrote your letter, you were aware of my little corps being dispersed, and you sent troops to surround me in the town of Pastrana, and *at least to make me prisoner !*

“ To conclude : the sentiments of my heart (which I hope is a sound and pure one) are not to be changed, and I shrink not from all the dangers and punishments with which you threaten me.

“ This is *my* determined resolution and *that of my soldiers* ; it will exasperate you the more, and draw down your vengeance upon us ; but neither reward, nor threat, nor any punishment that awaits us can seduce us from our duty ; we offered to our country our lives from the first moment of this struggle, and we still look upon them as hers, and seek with pleasure that death

which intimidates only the unjust, the weak, and the cowardly; we have the honour to thank you for the protection you offer to us, and we hope that you will do us the favour to communicate this our resolution to the Governor General of Madrid and to your monarch.

“ JUAN MARTIN, *El Empecinado*.”

Sigüenza, February 14, 1810.

It will be seen by the tenor of this letter that Salas made no impression upon the Empecinado. On the 9th of March, three hundred cavalry and infantry were detached from Guadalaxara to Sigüenza to raise contributions; Martin followed this column and harassed it considerably, but it was reinforced by two hundred and fifty dragoons and five hundred infantry, and he found it necessary to give up the pursuit; but he determined to attack these people upon their return, and did so on the 16th, when they were on the march in high spirits, having plundered the whole country.

He waited for them in the heights of Mirabueno with his one hundred and eighty dragoons dismounted, and fifty infantry under the command of the Curate Tapia,

who gallantly offered their services on this occasion, as well as one hundred of the *provincial escapeteros* who joined him at the moment of the action, the result of which was the capture of the whole convoy, and a great number of the enemy killed and wounded. The loss of the Empecinado was very severe, and he had to lament that of his cousin and subaltern officer, Don Mariano de Navas, who was wounded and died shortly after.

The distracted state into which the Spanish nation was thrown by the conduct of the French and by the struggle that was made by the people in some parts of the peninsula afforded unfortunately a mask to the evil minded, who under the pretence of following the glorious example of our hero, and making a noble resistance to the enemy, assembled in small numbers and armed and mounted themselves; but instead of directing their attention to the enemy, employed their time in levying contributions of every sort, and became even a greater scourge to the country than the French.

The presbyter, Don Bernardo Mayor, well known as the *Curate of Espina*, under pretence of being a partizan, employed himself as I have described; complaints were

made of the infamous conduct of this man and his party to Martin, who being scrupulously attentive to the interests of the labouring class of people, and alive to all their concerns, (never exacting from them more than the precise things he wanted) set out immediately in pursuit of this banditti; he fell in with them at the town of Atienza, disarmed them all, and sent the curate to be treated as would seem best to the superior junta of Guadalaxara, all the complaints against him being regularly drawn up and authenticated by those who had suffered from his iniquity\*.

Martin now obeyed a summons from Major General Suis Bassecourt, the Commissary General of Cuenca, who called him to his assistance, as several columns of the enemy threatened the capital of that province from the side of Tarancon.

The Empecinado continued under the orders of that general, until at the earnest entreaty of the Junta of Guadalaxara General Bassecourt allowed him to return into

\* The Junta of Guadalaxara intrusted the examination of the conduct of this wretch to Don Pedro de Castro, who neglected to follow the thing up; and, at the end of two months, Don Bernardo Mayor made his escape—joined the French—displayed all the infamy of his mind and heart—and occasioned to the Spaniards great losses and vexations.



that province at the end of April 1810, when he proceeded by order of the junta to disarm a squadron of the corps of the Marquis of Banio Lucio (a partizan). This squadron had deserted from the marquis on his march to place himself under the orders of the Captain General of Valencia. It is singular that he should also overtake these people in the town of *Atienza*, and was equally successful in disarming them without the slightest resistance being made. He sent them prisoners to Cuenca.

The name of the Empecinado and his reputation had brought to him a number of the soldiers who had dispersed from different corps in the various actions, or who escaped from being prisoners; with these and many Spanish deserters whom he forced from their homes to join him he organized a battalion which he called the *Dispersed*, and which afterwards received the name of *Sharp Shooters* of Siguenza, and he also commenced the organization of the battalion of *Volunteers* of Guadalaxara, composed of the youths of that province who voluntarily joined him.

These corps assembled in small parties in different points of the province; the first corps under the direction of Colonel Don

Nicolas de Isideo, who commands that battalion at the moment I am writing; the other corps under the orders of Colonel Don Geronimo Luzon, who is also at this moment its colonel. He divided the cavalry, which now amounted to two hundred and fifty men, into three squadrons, and gave the command of them to Don Jose Mondeden, Don Vicente Sardino, and Don Saturino Albuir; he was enabled to increase this corps by the number of arms and horses he took from the enemy and some horses obtained by requisition; all his disposable force he employed in protecting the organization of these new corps, and in *pretended* acts of violence to the towns, *forcing* their young men to join him; without which measures of *apparent* coercion, the towns, particularly those near the French garrisons, would have been subject to severe punishment. The garrison of Guadalajara, consisting of one thousand men cavalry and infantry, became so alarmed at these military preparations as to fortify the gates of that town and place cannon at them; nor did any column venture out to plunder except when the Empecinado was at a distance; however he so well planned his operations and marches as to be able to fall

upon them frequently, and make them pay dearly for their plunder. Upon one of these occasions the action he had with them in Solanillos, on the 15th of May, deserves particular notice, for although the enemy's corps was considerably stronger than Martin's, he hung upon it for a distance of four leagues, killing and wounding a great number of men, and amongst those who were killed in the streets of Brihenga was Don N. Calvo, a renegade Spaniard, said to be nephew of Salas, and by his death the country was delivered from one of its greatest scourges.

On the 18th the enemy, reinforced to the number of one thousand five hundred, came out of Guadalaxara in pursuit of the Empecinado, who retired to the banks of the Tagus, where he had scarcely arrived when he was informed that two hundred and fifty of the enemy were in the act of plundering the town of Villarego de Salvanes and the neighbouring villages; he instantly marched after them, overtook them in Brea, and after a sharp action, in which many were killed and wounded, he forced the remainder to shut themselves up in the strong castle or palace of that town.

A column of the enemy was now direct-

ing its march into the interior of the province, the Empecinado to draw it back made a forced march and suddenly presented himself at the gates Guadalaxara, this produced the desired effect, the column hastily returned, and thus was the province saved from being plundered.

In the course of the month of June, he had a number of sharp actions with the enemy immediately close round Madrid, so that the court was alarmed, and the destruction of the Empecinado became an object of serious consideration; his continued successes animated the patriots and increased the numbers of partizans, who were known all over the peninsula by the name of *Empecinados*, so called by the French if their conduct was good, in imitation of the *original* Empecinado.

To effect the destruction of our hero, the sanguinary and cruel General, Joseph Leopoldo Hugo was appointed to the command of the province of Guadalaxara; he was looked upon as the only person capable of destroying our praiseworthy and invaluable Castillian. Hugo marched for Guadalaxara with a corps of three thousand men cavalry and infantry, and twelve pieces of artillery; yet this imposing and overwhelming force

only served to prove to the Spanish nation the extent of the military knowledge acquired by the Empecinado; for before General Hugo had time to station garrisons in the towns of Brihucga and Siguenza, Martin brought him to action several times, and although he could make no serious impression, as the enemy was always treble his numbers, yet he harassed him considerably, and at the same time practised his own young soldiers in the art of war.

The enemy took possession of those places on the 29th of June, leaving in Brihucga one thousand two hundred men and two pieces of cannon. On the 30th Martin had already commenced operations against them, he was assisted by Don Francisco Palafox, who had five hundred infantry under his orders. He beat them out of the suburbs and forced them to shut themselves up within the walls of the city, where he was obliged to leave them, having no artillery with him.

His cavalry had now increased to the number of four hundred, his infantry to one thousand one hundred; with this force on the 16th of July he again attacked this garrison, and continued at the same time so to

intimidate the three garrisons of Brihucga, Siguenza, and the temporary one of Torrelaguna as to shut them all up in their respective posts for many days. These garrisons were augmented or diminished according to the will of General Hugo. The Empecinado's operations were therefore guided by those of his opponent; and whilst he continued to arm and instruct his recruits, he did not fail to persecute the French columns whenever they were put in motion, and occasionally carried off the picquets at the very gates of Guadalaxara; then suddenly passed the river Jarama, and by his appearance under the walls of Madrid alarmed the court of Joseph, and by keeping the garrison in continual alarm embarrassed it considerably and defeated many of its plans.

On the 10th of August when the enemy supposed him to be blockading the garrisons of Brihucga and Siguenza, he masked his real intention by leaving a few men in front of both of those towns, and suddenly fell upon the garrison of Torrelaguna and killed and wounded a great number, the remainder shut up in the strong castle were not to be reached by bayonets alone.

On the 18th by a forced march he placed himself with his cavalry in Cifuentes, having learned that the garrison of Brihucga had marched out to plunder the Alcarria of provisions; he fell upon them suddenly, killed and wounded some and took a few prisoners before they had time to form upon the main body, and thus he put an effectual stop to their march; however the day following he was attacked by a very superior force, probably with the intention of driving him across the Tagus, that the garrison of Siguenza might be relieved without attack, and he was obliged to pass the river at the bridge of Tillo; but on the 24th he was again in readiness to surprise this column on the march from Siguenza as it passed through Mirabueno; alarmed at the approach of the Empecinado it attempted to fall back upon Siguenza, but he attacked it so opportunely that he made nearly one hundred mounted men prisoners, which composed the party of the infamous renegado Mesa, who escaped only through the fleetness of his horse; he also made prisoners above one hundred and twenty of the infantry, the remainder saved themselves by following the line of mountains

until they reached the city. His loss too was very severe and obliged him to give rest to his troops.

It was impossible that the Empecinado could see with indifference the inhabitants of any town or province ill treated; he therefore repaired to that of Soria, where a small column of the enemy was employed in plundering; he fell in with it on the 29th of August in the town of Retortillas, and very few indeed, and those dispersed, escaped death or being made prisoners.

The farmers of that part of the country did not know how to testify their gratitude to our warrior who had thus saved all their effects from the hands of the rapacious enemy; but they sent a deputation to the town of Atienza to give to him, in the name of the whole of the inhabitants, their most expressive and heartfelt thanks, and to offer him presents for himself and every thing of which his troops should be in want; but the Empecinado replied, "I have only done my duty, and I fight for my *country*, and *every province* forms a *part of that country*; I can receive only the precise quantity of rations my troops require, and those must be taken in just proportion from the different towns."



By some means unknown to Martin who was not in correspondence with the government the regency of the kingdom became acquainted with all his successes, and particularly this last one at Retortilla, which from a chain of circumstances made great impression at the moment all over Spain. His highness to mark the entire approbation of the government, appointed Martin "*a Brigadier General of Cavalry in the National Army;*" and in the document which accompanied his commission is found the best testimony that can be given of his uncommon merit; the expressions used by the regency are these, "In attention to his services and to his modesty in not having asked for any thing."

This promotion effected no change in Martin, never did he display more zeal or activity, never did he personally exert himself more.

No consideration could for a moment draw off his attention from the main point; although mean spirited jealousies had been excited by his obtaining this rank, and many persons in authority endeavoured to thwart him; yet nothing could withdraw him from the career of glory which he had com-

enced, and which he had determined to follow.

In every action he had acted as a *commander as well as a soldier*. He ran over the country with the velocity of lightning, animating all the inhabitants by his enthusiasm and example, and as he was always the first to present himself in danger, he infused into his soldiers a spirit of heroism that struck terror into the enemy; scarcely a day passed without an action in some part of the province, so that every day the force of the enemy decreased from the numbers of killed and wounded, prisoners and deserters.

General Hugo now found that he had played a losing game in endeavouring to destroy the *Empecinados* by directing *small* columns against them. He determined therefore to unite all his disposable force and make one grand effort; accordingly on the 14th of September he commenced his march from Brihucga to Cefuentes, at which place our hero waited for him; at one in the afternoon the action commenced, and very soon became general and bloody; night put an end to it. The enemy remained in the town, and the *Empecinado* determined to attack them at daybreak; but in the middle

of the night they set fire to the town and retreated to Brihenga; Martin at one and the same moment assisted to put out the flames and to harass the enemy in his retreat, in which he succeeded and took a number of prisoners.

In consequence of the losses of the enemy in these various actions, they were confined to their different garrisons for several days, which determined the Empecinado to turn all his attention to the enemy who were in Siguenza, and endeavour to drive them out of that town. He took post within sight of it, and by continued alarms and false as well as real attacks, and by preventing any provisions from going into it, he succeeded in his object, and on the night of the 29th of September they abandoned Siguenza, and he took immediate possession of it.

His division now consisted of six hundred cavalry and one thousand five hundred infantry; but this corps required rest, organization, and equipment; to keep the enemy at the same time in check was a very difficult task; for it was necessary to send detachments to watch Guadaluara, Brihenga, and Torriga, and to keep

the communication open between these detachments; nor was this all; it became essential to attend to the supplications of several towns in old Castile to protect them from the oppression under which they laboured in consequence of the misconduct of some Spanish partizans, who forgetful of their duty and the purpose for which they took up arms committed every kind of excess: few men would have had nerve enough to undertake such a task; but Martin's mind expanded in proportion to his difficulties, and he not only attempted to do all this, but he completely succeeded.

Don Jose Mendiden was detached with his troop to put an end to the excesses of the partizans, and he fully answered the expectation of his chief, disarming the bad Spaniards, reproofing and intimidating the guilty, and restoring tranquillity; having done this he suddenly appeared in the neighbourhood of Segonia and Aranda to remind the French that there were still people who intended to annoy them. Our general continued his military labours in the province of Guadalaxara and succeeded in a great measure in the organization of his corps, whilst at the same time he kept the

different garrisons to a certain degree in check, and being always upon the alert obliged them to be under arms day and night. He had no action of any consequence until the 18th of October, when an opportunity offered by the march of six hundred infantry through the Cantarillas of Fuentes conveying cloth and other things from Brihucga; this action took place in a spot equidistant from three garrisons only five leagues asunder; he so disposed his troops as to keep in check the garrisons of Brihucga and Torriga and at the same time to watch the movements of that of Guadaluara which consisted of two thousand men: a strong column was pushed out of that city to the relief of the convoy, but it did not arrive in time to prevent our general from taking possession of it and making prisoners the greater number of the original escort; the loss on both sides was severe.

It was about this time that the infamous Villagarcia had joined the Empecinado's corps, and his ulterior conduct proved that he was employed by the French to introduce schism amongst the subaltern officers and soldiers; and although his efforts were not crowned with entire success yet he produced

sufficient disorder to threaten the most fatal consequences. This perfidious wretch availed himself of the strong passions of jealousy and resentment which he had himself excited and had recourse to the basest intrigue (in which according to general rumour he was assisted by the Junta and Intendant of the Province), and through its baleful influence he succeeded on the 23d of November when the division was at Sigüenza (for the purpose of organizing a regiment of cavalry), to induce some of the subaltern officers when they led out their men to the field to harangue them in the following terms:—"You are to fight in defence of the honour of your corps, for the *Junta*, and for the *Intendant*." Yet all this had no effect; the Empecinado's character was too well known and the troops at that moment more than ever gave proofs of their attachment to him: not aware of what was passing he presented himself amongst them at the very instant this new doctrine was preaching; it already created great disgust amongst many of his old soldiers who loudly expressed their disapprobation at the terms of the oath whilst others assented to it. Martin foreseeing the evil which might ensue if this altercation was not

immediately checked addressed them and imposed pain of death upon any one who should "excite such a disturbance as to occasion any man's taking up arms against his comrade; nor would he admit of any excuse even though he should plead being persuaded by his immediate commanding officer." These few words had the desired effect, the soldiers returned peaceably to their different billets, and thus was crushed in its origin this attempt to sow discord for the purpose it would seem of creating a force to support the authority of the Junta in opposition to that of the Empecinado. Upon this conjecture however I shall say no more as I set out with the determination to confine myself to the simple narrative of incontrovertible facts and to offer no reflections.

As it may well be supposed this occurrence was felt sensibly by the Empecinado; for it opened his eyes to scenes of intrigue of which he had never dreamed, but he resolved by keeping his people in continual employ to prevent any further discussions: he marched therefore instantly in the direction of Guadalupe, extending towards Nares and Brihuga and threatening the garrisons of both those towns. He also detached his cavalry towards Alcala and again alarmed the court

of Joseph and protected the important operation of recruiting the youths of Madrid and its neighbourhood, in obedience to an order to that effect which he had received from the regency, dated 29th October 1810, by which he was directed to draw forth from the Province of Madrid all the youths and attach them to the corps under his orders; for this purpose he was to have recourse to every possible means, and he was told he might rely upon the active co-operation and the contributions of the people of Madrid; nor was he deceived.

General Hugo found out that the task he had undertaken was more difficult than he had imagined. The Empecinado displayed a military genius upon which he had not calculated, and it became necessary to make a still greater effort to destroy him; of the three thousand men General Hugo had taken under his own immediate orders, so considerable a part had been either killed, wounded, or made prisoners that he was obliged to apply again to General Belliard for a reinforcement which was sent to him, and on the 7th of December he marched to the town of Humanes with a column of four hundred dragoons, two thousand infantry, and three pieces of artillery; but not feeling



entire confidence in his strength he had recourse to intrigue and wrote to the Empecinado in the hope of seducing him from his allegiance. This letter was received in Cogulludo on the 8th; a faithful copy of it and Martin's answer will show how truly the Empecinado deserved the gratitude of his country and the admiration of the world, not only by his military achievements but for his virtues and genuine patriotism: deaf to the entreaties of the barbarous General Hugo whose excesses were beyond all belief, the valiant Martin was not content with merely writing to him an assurance of his determination to resist every effort on the part of the French to seduce him from supporting the cause which he had espoused, but he resolved to follow up his letter by an attack; accordingly on the 9th instead of moving in the direction of Sorria which town was threatened by the enemy, he marched against General Hugo, thus anticipating the attack of that general; a desperate action took place, and Martin was obliged after suffering great loss to retire through Bustares to Atieca; for under the cover of a thick fog the enemy had been able to turn the flank of the Empecinado and threaten his rear. General Hugo marched to Ja-

drague where he left thirty-six prisoners he had taken and a garrison of six hundred men, and proceeded with the rest of his force on the 12th to Atienza. Martin proposed to attack him upon the heights over that town, but having arrived too late in the evening to take up his position he contented himself with a partial attack (in which General Hugo had his horse shot under him), and suddenly pushed to Jadrague where he released the prisoners, and after killing and wounding a number of the enemy obliged the remainder to shut themselves up in the convent of the town; he took all their provisions which was very opportune as his soldiers had been for several days upon half allowance and were very much fatigued.

The Empecinado now, with that humanity and benevolence which so eminently distinguished him, feeling for the inhabitants of Atienza, upon whom he foresaw all sorts of cruelties would be exercised by General Hugò if the French were allowed to remain there, dispatched a peasant to that general to announce what was passing at Jadrague; as he calculated so did it turn out: General Hugo immediately evacuated Atienza and repaired to the relief of the garrison of Jadrague; the moment he

approached the town our general moved off towards Brihucga, and Hugo supposing it was with the intention of attacking that garrison, followed him, but the Empecinado turned off to Siguenza, leaving General Hugo indignant at the losses he had sustained, obliged to give up the useless pursuit, and to return to Guadalupe to rest and recruit his dispirited and harassed troops under cover of the artillery of that town, which alone secured to them the quiet of which they so much stood in need. The Empecinado resolved to take advantage of this moment whilst his enemy was so completely disabled, and passed to the left of the Tagus to put a stop to the incursions of the garrisons of Tarancón, Villarjo, de Salveas, and Arganda; and he succeeded effectually up to the 2d of January 1811, when he was obliged to return to Guadalupe, being advised by the junta that Hugo aided by a fresh body of troops was persecuting them, and had determined to destroy the manufactory of firelocks which they had with so much difficulty established in Cuenca, but upon his return to the province he found all the reports to be false, so he proceeded on the 9th to Sigüenza, and had scarcely arrived with the battalion of

sharpshooters of that name and two troops of cavalry, when he found himself engaged in a desperate action with the bloodthirsty *Requet*, whose force consisted of one hundred and fifty horse and eight hundred infantry, the affair commenced at eleven o'clock in the morning and lasted until night, when the enemy having lost a considerable number of men and having made no impression thought it advisable not to wait for a renewal of the action or to continue their expedition for plunder, and retired in the night to Aranda de Duero from whence they had come. The letter of General Hugo and the answer of the Empecinado I will now introduce whilst the impression is alive of the effect which might naturally have been expected to be produced by the conduct I have related of some of the officers of the Empecinado's corps at Siguenza; Hugo conceiving that moment to be the fittest to endeavour to work upon the feelings of our hero, and to induce him to swerve from his duty, wrote his letter.

*Letter from Général Hugo to Brigadier Don  
Juan Martin.*

“ SIR,

“ THE opinion I have formed of you and your good judgment leads me to hope that you cannot be one of those who so idly lend their ears to the foolish and absurd reports which are constantly spread, nor can I suppose that you give credit to them, especially in such preposterous cases as that of the reported victory gained over Marshal Massena; these foolish stories may impose upon weak minds but can make no impression upon sensible men.

“ Affairs must immediately take a turn; and a few men who have obstinately persisted in resisting us will see how silly their efforts have been, and how ill judged in holding out so long. There is not a Spaniard who does not agree in opinion that King Joseph unites in his person every great and amiable quality; why should the beautiful fields of Spain be drenched with blood? why should Spaniards destroy Spaniards? why endeavour to excite the people of the present generation to destroy their posses-

sions, depopulate the towns, and ultimately seek their own destruction for the vain purpose of placing upon the throne a king, when we have at this moment upon that throne one of the best of kings? many evils may yet be avoided and particularly in this province where all hostilities ought to cease, what difficulty can there be? what objection can exist to your serving Spain under the dominion of King Joseph? and why should not the brave officers and men as well of the cavalry as the infantry who are under your orders enter into his service and receive a truly military organization?

“If you wish to know my intentions towards you and those of your corps, send to me any person of confidence to learn them; if you wish to include the junta of this province you may do so. I hope to have an immediate answer, and I beg to assure you of my protection, and of the perfect consideration with which

“I am, &c. &c. &c.

“J. L. HUGO, *Major General.*

“G. 7th December, 1810.”

*Brigadier General Don Juan Martin's Answer to  
Don Jose Leopoldo Sigisberto Hugo.*

“SIR,

“I VALUE as I ought the opinion you have formed of me; I have formed a very bad one of you: nevertheless if you sincerely repent your atrocities, and tired of being a slave you wish to recover your liberty in the service of a free nation valiant as she is generous, the Empecinado offers you his protection.

“That Massena and his army surrendered on the 4th of November last would seem to admit of no doubt; but allowing it to be untrue, certain it is that if he has not already perished he will soon be destroyed; for fortune his mother \* has for a long time turned her back upon him!

“There is little doubt that the actual state of things must soon terminate, for it appears that all the nations of Europe are combined against the French: however without that circumstance Spain has always

\* Son of Fortune was the *nom de guerre* which Buonaparte gave to Massena.

had and now particularly has more force, energy, and constancy than are required merely to humble the legions of your king.

“Corrupt and venal men alone can find in your Joseph, the First *King of Madrid*! those qualities which you suppose him to have—if he be so good a man, why does he commit and suffer to be committed such atrocities? a proud and perfidious usurper can never be a good man! the Spaniards who take part with the brother of Napoleon must be very few, but if there were many they must always be the vilest and most detestable; the sound part of the nation which is the great majority and which constitutes her strength abhors and detests even the very name of a Frenchman.

“I am quite astonished at your holding out and breathing sentiments of humanity! Publish your *humanity* at Guadalaxara, Sigüenza, Huete, Cefuentes, Frillo, Douon, Ita, in the towns of the valleys, in short in every village and spot that has had the misfortune to be visited by either you or your soldiers! will they believe you? and I who have witnessed your *deeds*, how am I to credit your *words*?

“In vain do you labour if you think to dissuade either me or any of my soldiers



from our honourable undertaking, be well assured that so long as one single soldier of mine is alive, the war will be carried on; they have all in imitation of their chief sworn eternal war against Napoleon and those vile slaves who follow him. If you please you may tell your king and your brethren in arms that the Empecinado and his troops will die in defence of their country.

“They never can unite themselves to men debased, without honour, without faith, and without religion of any kind! Be good enough to cease to write to me.

“I am the *Empecinado*.”

Implicit obedience to the authorities civil and political was a leading feature in the character of Martin, he therefore obeyed the junta of his province although in opposition to the wish of General Bassecourt, who desired that he should on the 12th of January pass into Arragon with the *whole* of his force and act in concert with the troops of that kingdom against General Suchet who threatened Tarragona; but his excellency the junta, whose members always *took good care of their persons*, would not allow

Martin to take with him more than three hundred dragoons, and with this force they directed him to march to assist in the plans of General Bassecourt who at that time commanded in Valencia. Martin not being of any use in that kingdom was in the act of returning to Guadalupe, when on the 30th of the month he was attacked in the neighbourhood of Oredo Zedondo by General Paris with five hundred dragoons; who with this force and two thousand infantry was in pursuit of General Villacampa.

The Empecinado was aware that General Villacampa, who had passed the night in Checa, was upon the alert and had marched at daybreak without any one knowing his direction; but Martin calculated that it was in search of General Paris\*, this induced him to take advantage of the strong ground which he occupied with his dragoons dismounted, and for the space of nearly an hour to endeavour to resist this force, hoping every moment that Villacampa might appear; but the arrival of a spy to General

\* General Villacampa had in effect marched out of Checa to look for the enemy, but hearing that he had moved towards Peralgos to destroy the manufactory of arms, he directed his march to that town.

Paris who assured him of the direction Villacampa had taken decided General Paris to make a desperate effort against Martin; he accordingly charged along his whole position and compelled him to retire with the loss of about fifty men killed, wounded, and prisoners; but for the difficulty of the ground his loss must have been still more severe, but Paris did not follow up the pursuit. The day following Villacampa returned to Checa, Paris presented himself before the town and an action commenced in which Martin again took part, and at the conclusion of it marched to Sacedon: he reached it the 6th of February and immediately ordered all the troops of his division to assemble in that town for the purpose of checking the flying columns of Taraneon and Guadalajara, and to support General Villacampa and cover his retreat upon Oya del Infante, to which point he was retiring pursued in every direction.

Some of Martin's corps were at too great a distance, others employed by the junta, so that he could not bring them together with the rapidity which circumstances required to show front to the enemy, but he had recourse to stratagem and effected his purpose of keeping in check the garrison of Guada-

laxara and Taraneon by making requisitions for as many rations as if his whole division had been assembled \*; the Commandant of Taraneon finding that he had been deceived moved out of that town with a column of six hundred cavalry and infantry and one gun, and presented himself on the 11th of the month in front of Sacedon, the Empecinado who had but two hundred and sixty dragoons with him dismounted a portion of them, occupied the outhouses of the town, and after a bold resistance of two hours suddenly decided on fording the river Guadiola, and rapidly pushing for the very town of Taraneon where he appeared within twenty-four hours: one hundred infantry and fifty dragoons who had remained in this town sallied forth to oppose him, little thinking that it was with the Empecinado they had to deal. The cavalry charged our general's advanced guard and were almost all either killed or made prisoners, and the infantry not expecting such a reception were strag-

\* General Villacampa, whose retreat was perhaps one of the most masterly that occurred during the war, would certainly have met with more serious losses but for the detention of these columns by the Empecinado; for it is most probable they would have occupied the very town through which alone he could retire, and which they were prevented from doing by Martin having anticipated them.

ling carelessly and nearly shared the same fate, for very few got back into the fort.

These rapid countermarches and bold enterprises not only occasioned great loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners, but harassed to death great numbers of the enemy, and prevented them from destroying the various depots which had been established for the purpose of equipping the different corps which Martin and the junta were employed in levying. In the town of Priego the battalion of volunteers of Madrid was organizing, and had already recruited five hundred men, of whom about two hundred were armed; our general repaired to this town to complete the equipment of that corps, and left his cavalry in Villar de Domingo Garcia to be in readiness in case Priego should be attacked; he knew that the levy of this corps gave jealousy to General D'Armagnue, who had now collected in Farancon a corps of three thousand cavalry and infantry; the infantry of our general's division was ordered to follow to Priego. General D'Armagnue conceiving that there were but two hundred armed men in Priego detached six hundred men to destroy them; but at the moment of their arrival on the 19th of the month, the battalion of sharp

shooters of Siguenza and that of Guadalupe presented themselves; the enemy instantly retired not without considerable loss, and which must have been greater if the cavalry from Villar de Domingo Garcia had come up, and to do so they had positive orders! nothing could exceed the gallantry of the two hundred recruits of the regiment of Madrid.

General D'Armagnue, whose immediate object was to place a garrison in the town of Cuenca, was so irritated by the failure of this little expedition against Priego that he lost sight of Cuenca, and resolved to attack Priego again the next day; he accordingly appeared before that town with his whole division; the action commenced at two in the afternoon and lasted until five, when by dint of repeated attacks, and after a bloody conflict, he succeeded in driving out the Empecinado whose loss was very severe, and must have been still more so but for night fall which covered his retreat, so that he was allowed to retire without being molested; and General D'Armagnue, instead of proceeding to Cuenca, returned to Farancon to recruit his losses; Martin marched into Cuenca to give rest to his soldiers, who were very much fatigued, and to ob-

tain the rations which were destined by D'Armagnue for his own division.

At the end of a week Martin returned to Guadalupe, to prevent a combination between the garrison of that town and the very strong one which the enemy had placed in Molina, they had also occupied Jadrague, and a few days afterwards they garrisoned Aunon and Sacedon, so that the distances between these different garrisons were so small, it seemed impossible for the Empecinado to re-enter the province.

The 7th of March he passed the Tagus with the whole of his division, and on the 8th and 9th attacked the garrison of Molina, which after serious loss shut itself up within the works, nor could he by any means induce it to quit the town and give him battle, though it consisted of three hundred dragoons and one thousand infantry; he therefore left his infantry to observe them and moved off with the cavalry to annoy the enemy at Brihucga.

The French now destroyed the bridges of Parega and Trillo upon the Tagus by blowing up their centre arches, and burned that of Vallablado; the only one they left in a state to be passed was that at Aunon, and there they posted a strong detachment and

formed a battery. This obliged our general to assemble his troops in Siguenza, and to give them a little rest whilst he planned an attack upon the detachments at Sacedon and Aunon, for the purpose of opening the passage across the river. At this moment General Villacampa arrived with his corps at the villages of Oya del Infantado.

Our general made known to him his plan, and they combined their operations, so that on the 13th in the morning they commenced the attack; the result was such as might be expected from troops vieing with each other in devotion to their country, and who had so often given proofs of consummate valour. The battery and fort at the bridge of Aunon was stormed, and all taken in it were bayoneted; those who escaped into the town shut themselves up in the church, and although a heavy fall of rain during the whole day made an attack upon the church very difficult, as the fire arms were completely drenched, and they had no artillery, and a very heavy fire was kept up by the enemy sheltered from the weather; yet these two generals were determined to persist, and in the act of planning a mode of attack, when the appearance of a very strong column of the enemy obliged



them reluctantly to retire; but this enterprise prevented the enemy from again making Aunon a post, and thus the passage of the Tagus was once more open.

Our generals retired each to his own province, and the Empecinado during the month of March and beginning of April scarcely allowed a day to pass without harassing the enemy.

The general commanding in Valencia now called upon Martin to join him with his division to succour Tarragona; on the 8th of April he received the order and immediately laid it before the Junta of Guadalaxara; but his excellency, armed with all its authority, not only expressed great discontent at the Empecinado's determination to obey this summons from his superior officer, but it issued a positive order to the officers commanding the cavalry and infantry regiments not to obey their general if he should direct them to march to the relief of any other province.

The state in which the whole nation unfortunately was at this period, and particularly the province of Guadalaxara, induced Martin to forgive this conduct, or rather to make excuses for the folly of it, and endeavour to find some means of avoiding the

ruin which would have been inevitable, had he upon this occasion, as military chief of the province, made use of all his power and influence. He was aware that the discord and spirit of intrigue which unfortunately for Spain existed in many parts of the country had crept into Guadalaxara, and as the organization of his different corps had cost him incessant labour and fatigue, he thought it prudent to pass over this conduct of the junta, nor make it more public than was necessary; therefore under the plea of ill health, he resolved to quit Guadalaxara and pass to Cuënca; but he first ordered the different corps to Sigüenza, thus preventing the crisis which would have produced every sort of evil, perhaps a mutiny, and gave an opportunity to the several chiefs to keep up the subordination and discipline of their corps.

The Junta of Guadalaxara profiting by the absence of the Empecinado made such distribution of the corps as they thought fit; and planned an expedition against the garrison of Jadraque, for which purpose they sent the division along the right bank of the Tagus; but the result of this operation was discomfiture and disgrace, and particularly to the member of the junta Don Beltazar

Carillo, who planned and accompanied the expedition, and who was totally ignorant of all military operations; this man sent to the left bank of the Tagus the skeleton of the battalion of Madrid, all the sick and weak men of the different corps, and all those who wanted arms! never calculating that thus separated from the armed division they would probably be made prisoners, or at least he did not allow this consideration to have any weight, or to prevent so absurd a step. It happened, as was expected, two hundred men who were at Valdcolivias were made prisoners whilst at chapel on Good Friday; but this was one of the least evils which arose out of these silly arrangements; however they did not last any length of time, for the Empecinado could no longer remain a passive spectator, but hastened back and presented himself at Siguenza the 25th of April, took command of his division and set to work to remedy the ill effects which had been produced by the junta's endeavouring to carry on military operations without having one atom of military knowledge.

This junta had always been adverse to raising the corps of Volunteers of Madrid, it began by refusing rations to the first de-

tachment of recruits, and Martin found it necessary to send them to Cuenca where the junta of that province and the ecclesiastical Cabildo not only provided them with food all the time they were there, but gave them various articles of clothing. To complete the organization of the two corps, cavalry and infantry of *Volunteers of Madrid*, was the anxious object of Martin; yet did the junta continue to set their faces against doing so, and denied the soldiers even the shoes of which they stood in need! yet this junta drew out of the province of Madrid every sort of resource. The patience and temper of our general was however not to be ruffled when the interest of the country was at stake; he bore all these contradictions with apparent indifference, but to guard against the evils which they threatened he sent the battalion of Madrid to the mountains of *Tamajon*, which bordering on the province of Madrid would enable it to draw subsistence from thence, until such time as it should be armed and be able to seek it in the midst of the enemy. The two troops of cavalry under the orders of the Captains *Don Jose Mondenin* and *Don Damaso Martin* he stationed in the plains of Alcala to harass the enemy and to keep the

court of Madrid in continual alarms by pushing patrols to the very gates of that city, at which they had frequent skirmishes.

These gallant soldiers fulfilled the object of their chief effectually, and particularly in the affair of Azuqueca, where they intercepted a convoy.

The increase in numbers and improvement in discipline of the division of the Empecinado now excited so much alarm in King Joseph and his generals that it was determined another effort should be made to destroy it. The detail and arrangement of the plan were left to the talent of General Belliard, who ordered four columns of two thousand five hundred men each, cavalry and infantry, to march against our hero from the points of Guadalaxara, Tarancon, Sierra de Molina, Sorid, and Aranda; thus was the Empecinado's division completely surrounded, and these corps were to draw in and to lessen the circle, so as to be able to assist each other; the column from Guadalaxara was reinforced and put under the direction of Hugo himself, who was ordered "*to bring to action the Empecinado wherever he found him*;" another column of three thousand cavalry and infantry remained in readiness in Madrid to

march to any given point where it should be wanting; they hoped and thought they had now secured our valiant chief; but he laughed at all their combinations, and with uncommon talent extricated his division from the snare they had laid for it, and made his own arrangements for attacking the enemy where they conceived themselves most secure; already were written orders issued for the attack of the garrisons of Alcovendas el Molar, Buitrago, and Somo Sierra; and to carry these operations into effect he had occupied with his whole corps the town of Torrelaguna in the night of the 30th of April; at daybreak however he was apprised of the arrival of General Hugo at Uceda. He immediately ordered his cavalry down upon Madrid, and retired with his infantry to Valdepeñas in the mountains, there he learned the general movements of the enemies' columns. On the 2nd he continued his march by the pass of Cardoza, and the 5th he reached Riaza, at the moment a French column of eight hundred men from Aranda entered the town of Aigllon. He immediately prepared to attack them, but they were apprised of his movement and hastily retired again to Aranda and shut themselves up in the castle.

The 9th he determined to pass the Samosierra; and in order to do so securely he feigned an attack upon the garrison of that town; a few men were lost on both sides, but he effected his passage: and that same day attacked a convoy at the bridge of Revenga two leagues from Segovia and liberated a number of prisoners. The 10th at daybreak he assaulted the town of St. Ildephonso, dislodged the garrison with great loss, and forced it to retire into the palace; in the evening he fell back upon Rascafria to give rest to his troops who were dreadfully fatigued. The 13th he again marched upon Buitrago and Samosierra, shut up the garrisons of these two places, and took post between them with four hundred men, detaching the rest of his infantry into the province of Castile. All this time the enemy's columns were marched and countermarched in all directions, not only without gaining the object for which they were employed but without making even one single prisoner, and so great was the fatigue they underwent and such their suffering under every sort of privation that their loss from sickness was very considerable.

The moment General Hugo heard of the arrival of our general in the neighbourhood

of Buitrago he detached two thousand men to the support of the garrison; they did not reach their destination however without paying a tribute to the gallantry of Martin who waited for them with his four hundred men in the Horcajo, and profiting by that advantageous position resisted them for above three hours, and when they thought by their numbers to turn his flank and surround him, he slipped through their fingers and retired to Tarragon where he joined the rest of his infantry. The cavalry which he detached to the plains manœuvred with great ability and success and gave proofs of having profited by the lessons of their master; it was obliged however to retire before a very superior force, which it did in so masterly a way that the enemy lost above one hundred and sixty horses through the effects of positive fatigue; they were unaccustomed to the sort of service in which they were employed, and did certainly upon this occasion use extraordinary exertions, but without reaping any advantage from them.

Our general thus completely frustrated the plans and hopes of General Belliard as he had already done those of King Joseph and of the Generals Hugo and D'Armagnue, and



it was now confessed at the intruder's court of Madrid that "*it was impossible to destroy the Empecinado:*" it was also acknowledged that during the twenty days these operations lasted the result to the French had been the loss of above two hundred men killed and prisoners, above four hundred sent to hospitals from fatigue, and above one thousand who had deserted (Germans, Italians, &c.), and the liberation of all the Spanish prisoners by the Empecinado when he attacked the convoy at Revenga; the loss of our general did not exceed eighty men killed and prisoners. He was now authorized by royal order dated March 12, 1811, to increase his corps to the number of ten thousand men, which he received on the 11th of May following, directing that these men should be raised in the provinces of Madrid and old Castile. His troops having recovered from the very great fatigue they had undergone, he marched to the right bank of the Tagus to commence his operations in the manner ordered by the government.

Whilst in this position he received three pieces of field artillery, and on the 12th of June had an opportunity of using them for the first time in the plains of Cifuentes; he had however the misfortune to perceive that

intrigue and malevolence were again at work; for the infamous one-armed renegade\* with the cavalry he commanded had turned the flank of the enemy's infantry and artillery, and the French general confessed that he looked upon himself as beaten, *but the Empecinado's cavalry did not act!*

The whole of the infantry but particularly the sharpshooters of Sigüenza behaved most gallantly; our general was however obliged to retire, having suffered very severely.

Different and continued actions were daily taking place until an order from the government was made known declaring the troops under the command of the Brigadier Empecinado "*to compose the fifth division of the second army,*" and in a few days the general in chief of that army Charles O'Donnell directed the Empecinado with his division to march to the kingdom of Valencia: then it was that Martin discovered how fatally the seeds of discord had been sown and how near the flame of mutiny was breaking out. It was evident the hidden enemy of the nation had made rapid progress towards her destruction!

\* Saturnino Albuir who afterwards by deserting to the French explained his conduct upon this occasion.

The soldiers manifested great discontent at this order, and at last openly declared "*We are soldiers of the Junta,*" thus marking evidently the authors of this insubordination and proving the ignorance and absurdity if not wickedness of this Junta!

These expressions soon reached the ears of the Empecinado, but they in no way altered his determination to obey the orders which he had received; and he accordingly issued *his* for the march, and every arrangement was made to carry it into effect when the Marquis of Zayas suddenly arrived in the province for the purpose as it appeared "*of examining into the difference of opinion which existed between the civil and military authorities, the Junta, and the Empecinado:*" the appointment to this commission arose out of eleven representations made by the Junta against the Empecinado\*.

The marquis was appointed by this Junta its president (contrary to law) and they also

\* The whole of these representations are in the hands of the writer of this narration and they are worthy of being copied to prove the ignorance of the writers; suffice it to say in one of them they accuse the Empecinado of want of common military knowledge, for that he had sent all his infantry into the mountains and his cavalry into the plains! and this complaint was made at the moment when by this arrangement he had frustrated all the plans of the enemy when the four columns were marched against him as I have already stated!

gave him the command of the troops; the Empecinado submitted without the slightest opposition and the marquis forthwith suspended the march of the troops to Valencia and made such disposition of them as he thought fit; nor did he neglect to pay himself and his aid-de-camp sixty-five thousand reals which he stated to be due for *arrears of pay*! Whilst the Junta was rejoicing at having a new president and having carried their point of detaining the troops, Tarragona which they were destined to relieve fell into the hands of the enemy! General O'Donnell again ordered these troops to repair without delay to Valencia to check the progress of General Suchet; but their new chief and the Junta made such representations to the captain-general of that kingdom as to induce him to permit such of the troops to remain in the province of Guadalaxara as should be pointed out by them, and the remainder they said should be ordered to repair forthwith to Valencia. General O'Donnell thought it was better to make a virtue of necessity: the division was now all brought together in Valdeslivas where the marquis selected the infantry of Guadalaxara and two troops of cavalry bearing the same name to remain under his orders, and the remain-

der marched on the 9th of July. But the effects of intrigue were soon evident; for upon arriving at the town of Villaconigos again was heard "*We are soldiers of the Junta,*" and strange to say this was said even by the soldiers of the regiment of Madrid who had been always so ill treated by the Junta: the result of this mutiny at which the Empecinado was not present was that the soldiers first fought one against the other and at last separated into distinct corps, some proceeded towards Valencia, others went off to join the partisans of Castile, and some dreading the punishment which they so richly deserved and were sure would be inflicted upon them by the Empecinado deserted to the enemy! But the great bulk of them returned to Priego to be under the orders of the Junta. Thus did the Empecinado to the triumph of his enemies remain without any division! Yet this dreadful and afflicting event did in no way shake the nerve of our noble chief; on the contrary he displayed extraordinary force of mind, and still worked to prevent the total subversion of discipline or at least to keep up the outward appearance of it: he therefore ordered those whom he found determined to proceed to Priego to march by Recuenco and assemble at Si-

guenza, wishing it to be understood that he had received a counter order; and those who were willing to march to Valencia should halt at Cuenca\*. He apprised the Marquis of Zagas of all that occurred, and of his arrangements in order to prevent further desertion and to save from an attack of the enemy (then close upon the right bank of the Tagus) troops in such a wretched state of insubordination; but the marquis totally unacquainted with the country disapproved of the arrangements and ordered the cavalry under the command of Albuir (the one-armed renegade) to move down upon the left bank of the Guadiala, and the infantry to pass to Sacedon. This distribution was precisely what the enemy wished, it was placing these soldiers completely at their mercy, nor did the French fail to take advantage of it; they passed the river, fell upon the infantry (the sharpshooters of Siguenza and volunteers of Madrid), and these distinguished corps were destroyed; those who were not made prisoners dispersed and

\* It is supposed that there was a plot to assassinate the Empecinado at this meeting and it is likely that French intrigue had a share in it; nor was it difficult for the French to make impressions upon some of the weak and giddy subalterns who saw how their chief was treated by their own Junta.

went to their homes declaring everywhere "they had been betrayed!" The battalion of Guadalajara was now the only one remaining; this corps also received orders from the marquis to march to the source of the Tagus; but when they learned what had occurred to the other two regiments they also mutinied and dispersed! Thus the division of the Empecinado which had cost so much labour and fatigue, and which by the extraordinary and indefatigable exertions of its legitimate chief amounted to three thousand infantry and six hundred cavalry in the beginning of July, was reduced in the short space of fifteen days to only four hundred men of both arms placed under the orders of the Marquis of Zagas!

This blow was too serious and fatal to all the fond hopes the Empecinado had cherished of being able effectually to serve his country not to shake his health: it did so, and this martyr to intrigue retired to Cuenca followed by about sixty of his faithful adherents.

He now gave a detailed account of what had passed to the commander-in-chief of the second army. In a few days after his arrival at Cuenca the enemy directed a column of two hundred horse and eight hun-

dred infantry to occupy that town: he had no intimation of their march until they were close upon it. General Bassecourt thought it right to retire with his division, but the Empecinado although not at all recovered determined to make a sacrifice for the liberal treatment his corps had formerly met with from the inhabitants of Cuenca, and he resolved to assist them in resisting the entrance of the enemy, which from the nature of the ground and assisted by three hundred armed citizens he was enabled to do long enough to give time to the inhabitants, according to custom, to carry off their effects and conceal themselves in the mountains; he retreated to Morte, and General Bassecourt having reinforced him with sixty dragoons he hung upon the French when they retired and prevented stragglers from plundering the villages.

At this moment a new order of things took place and changed the aspect of affairs. The province of Guadalaxara obtained the right of electing a new Junta, which it did from amongst the honest and well thinking inhabitants, and this new and legitimate authority instantly set about repairing the evils which had almost overwhelmed the province. The Empecinado



at the same time received the royal commission of Colonel Proprietor of the Regiment of Light Cavalry of Guadalupe and resumed the command of the division (which was again to be formed), and the Marquis of Zagas was ordered to Valencia by the captain general of that kingdom.

Martin returned to the province of Guadalupe and immediately set to work with indefatigable zeal to bring together the dispersed soldiers and those who had been prisoners but had escaped from the enemy and were at their houses; he succeeded beyond his most sanguine expectation, and was very soon able to begin again to check the French in their system of plunder and to attack and put an end to their employing small detachments which they had done during his absence, and he gave the necessary instructions for the reorganization of the battalion of Madrid.

On the 18th of August while he was at Sigüenza it was reported to him that the adjutant of cavalry Villagazria had deserted to the French: this young man apprehensive of being discovered as having taken an active part in the late intrigue (since he had no longer the support of those who had insti-

gated him) took this base step and became a declared enemy to his country.

The indefatigable Empecinado was soon able from the increase of strength of his division not only to effectually protect his own province from the incursions of the enemy but to assist the towns in old Castile which were much oppressed by the parties of Spanish partisans. On the 1st of September he disarmed in the town of Turengano the party called the Castilians and sent the men who composed it to be placed at the disposal of the captain general, and was about to do the same with that which was called the Bourbons, but the commander of the party Don Thomas Principe solicited an interview with Martin and promised solemnly that his party should not be guilty of farther excess: he took his word and allowed them to continue to act—they kept their faith. He now returned to Siguenza and dedicated his whole time to the organization of the new corps and sent his cavalry and the infantry of the regiments of Guadalaxara and Siguenza to surprise the garrison of Molina; they succeeded in taking every one of them prisoners except the twenty men who remained shut up in the castle and were suffi-

cient in number to work the guns which protected and defended the entrance to it.

On the 15th of September he received orders to pass into Arragon, and in cooperation with General Duran who was ordered to menace Saragossa and manœuvre in its neighbourhood to draw off the attention of the enemy from Valencia which place was threatened with an attack: on the 20th he marched with his division and on the 24th formed a junction with General Duran; they immediately reconnoitred the garrison of Calatayud which they found consisted of one thousand men. Our general at the head of the volunteers of Madrid drove the enemy from the ridge of hills over the town and covered with the ruins of old castles, and obliged them to shut themselves up in the convent of Merced which they had strongly fortified; he blockaded them closely and having no artillery determined to undermine the convent; he was foremost upon every occasion, at one moment working himself in the mine, at another directing this operation, sometimes with a firelock picking off the enemy's artillerymen, in short by his example producing incredible exertions.

With the corps which he stationed in advance upon the Saragossa road to watch that

garrison he made prisoners the detachment stationed in *El Frasno*, and the day following (contrary to the opinion of General Duran) he marched out against and routed a column of one thousand five hundred men who came to the support of Calatayud; he made prisoners the commandant of this column and many cuirassiers and succeeded in taking the convent of Merced on the 4th of October, the garrison having suffered considerably by the springing of the mine. From these first efforts of the Empecinado in favour of Arragon the French lost about one thousand two hundred men, and if General Duran had consented to assist upon the 5th (the day after the surrender of the garrison) in a plan of the Empecinado to attack the corps which came to succour Calatayud the loss must have been much more considerable; but General Duran would not do this and Martin found it necessary to retire before a corps of much superior force in order to save the arms and prisoners he had taken in the town, but he was obliged to abandon the great stores of grain of which he had become master and which again fell into the hands of these new comers.

General Duran took no part in these operations, yet the results of them were

very favourable to him. The cavalry of the Empecinado continued in observation and never lost sight of the corps which now took possession of Cataloyed, and gave notice of its having evacuated that town on the 6th, when it was again taken possession of by the Spaniards; but several heavy columns were soon sent to occupy it, and it was again abandoned. General Duran retired into the province of Soria, whilst our gallant chief continued in Arragon in obedience to his orders "*to molest the enemy.*" He left no means unemployed to draw off the attention of the French and oblige them to detach corps against his division; for this purpose he laid siege to Molina, the garrison of which had been replaced and augmented.

This produced the effect, a heavy column was marched against him; he engaged this corps two days successively, the 26th and 27th of September, in Cevilligos; and although it consisted of two thousand infantry, two hundred dragoons, and four pieces of artillery, he completely beat it. This column had marched from Davoca, and our gallant chief pursued it back to the gates of that town. The loss of the enemy was one colonel, one chief of battalion, twenty-one

officers of different ranks, and above three hundred men killed and wounded. The fifth division (as our chief's corps was called) lost above thirty officers and three hundred and fifty men. Martin was induced to follow the enemy to the very gates of Daroca, in the firm belief and hope that General Duran's division would have intercepted it at the pass of Daroca, as he had given timely notice to Colonel Amor who commanded it, and who was only two leagues from the pass.

He calculated ill; no division appeared. He kept this corps blockaded until the 2nd of November, and at the same time blockaded that of Almenara, which the enemy endeavoured to relieve by detaching from Saragossa a column for that purpose; but he beat it back with the loss of its commandant and above fifty men wounded, and eighteen men and seventeen horses killed. The next day at the head of a squadron of his cavalry he attacked eighty Poles at the pass of Olfa-men, and killed or took prisoners the whole of them; and on the 4th the garrison of Almenara, one hundred and fifty men, surrendered and were made prisoners. On the 7th and 20th he had two very sharp actions, in each of which his whole corps was

engaged, in the plains of Almenara and Magnar, in both of which the enemy suffered a good deal, nor did the fifth division suffer less. On the 10th and 17th of the next month he had sharp actions in Alagon and Borja with a corps sent to relieve the garrison of the latter town which he was blockading.

It may very fairly be stated that the Empecinado did not rest his troops one single day during his stay in lower Arragon, every part of which he marched over to reanimate the people, and to destroy all the small detachments of the enemy which kept them in such perpetual alarm and slavery. He became a perfect scourge to the French, and certainly killed, wounded, and made prisoners above *three thousand* men. He obeyed and carried into effect most strictly the orders he had received from the captain general, and obliged the enemy to draw off in pursuit of his corps many columns otherwise destined for the siege of Valencia. He occasioned great delay in the movements of their troops, for his cavalry constantly acting upon the high road of Teruel kept them in continual alarm, and obliged them to march with all the form and regularity of corps

moving in front of an enemy, and put an end to their night marches.

In obedience to the wish of the magistrates of the different towns, he assembled all the deserters from the Spanish army, and all the soldiers who had been prisoners and had escaped from the enemy; he formed them into a corps, to which he gave the name of *Volunteers of Arragon*, and armed them instantly with the firelocks which he had taken from the enemy; this regiment he organized in *Ricla*. On the 18th of the month, the enemy with very superior force obliged our general (who was blockading the garrison of Tarrazona) to retire to Agreda and Diza. His retreat was effected with such ability as to astonish the enemy, and although this newly formed corps was completely surrounded, he contrived to save it by a countermarch deserving of the highest eulogium\*. On the 23rd he formed a junction with the troops of the province of Soria, and Count Montijo took the com-

\* This corps consisted of one thousand men; but upon leaving Arragon, the greater number deserted, and no exertion on the part of the Enspicinado could prevent them; so that he determined to send off to Alicant those who remained, and filled up the corps with volunteers from Cuenca, and the regiment now bears the name of Light Infantry of Cuenca.



mand of the whole, for the purpose of carrying on further enterprise in Arragon. The 24th and 25th the Empecinado assisted at the operation of *looking on at* a column of the enemy which took post at Atica. He immediately, with the permission of Count Murtigo, gave up the command of his division and retired to the province of Guadaluaxara to *re-establish his health*, leaving his corps under the command of Colonel Don Geronimo Luzon, in whom he placed implicit confidence; and who in obedience to the orders he received from Count Murtigo, assisted in all the marches and counter-marches through the province of Soria, and at the projected assault of the capital of that name. The melancholy catastrophe at Valencia and the dispersion of the army in that kingdom put an end to the commission of his Excellency Count Mutigo, who returned to join the remains of that army; and the Empecinado, whose health was *now re-established*, resumed the command of his division, and marched it into the province of Guadalaxara, to do that for which it was formed, make war *in earnest* against the enemy. On the 28th of January 1812, he attempted to surprise the garrison of Bri-

huega; but the unpropitious weather occasioned such delay upon the march that the enemy became apprised of his intention; so he turned off to Sigüenza with the whole of the infantry and part of his cavalry, and was received by the inhabitants with all the demonstrations of joy and attachment with which they so constantly distinguished this chief and his corps. The Empecinado and his troops were treated by the inhabitants of the different towns with that kindness which evinced their estimation of their utility; but Sigüenza above all displayed an active love for them: whenever they were pressed hard by the enemy, and could fortunately reach Sigüenza, they were sure of being cherished and supplied with every thing the town contained, the inhabitants vying with each other in acts of kindness; a hundred instances might be quoted of their giving even their clothing to the soldiers. The French very soon found out that there must be an end to all the excursions of small columns and detachments through the province, and that robbing and plundering would no longer remain unpunished as it had done whilst the fifth division was absent in Arragon. On the 6th of February

the enemy advanced against Siguenza, but our chief beat them back to Mirabueno, where they were reinforced; and upon the 7th they marched again upon Siguenza. An action commenced upon the heights of Rebollar, and a heavy column of cavalry, profiting by a momentary confusion in a part of the line of Spanish infantry, made a desperate charge and took above one thousand prisoners. Our chief was not in that part of the line where this occurred, but immediately repaired to it in the hope of remedying the evil, when he was recognised by the perjured corps of Spaniards under the orders of the infamous Villagarcia, who rushed upon him, and he was only able to save himself by the desperate means of throwing himself down a precipice; preferring even that sort of death to falling into the hands of the renegade Spaniards.

He was saved; but the consequence of his fall was a severe illness, which obliged him to go to Monterigo, *Almadovar*, and *Arcos* for the recovery of his health; he was driven from one town to the other by the enemy when they discovered where he was; however he escaped their persecution, and not-

withstanding his dangerous state of health, gave the most energetic orders and made excellent arrangements for recruiting his corps and putting both cavalry and infantry upon the very best footing; in this he was ably and enthusiastically assisted by his officers, so that in the middle of March when he returned to his division he found the infantry in a very high state of discipline and stronger in numbers than before the 7th of February, and the cavalry which was in equally good state had been most successful in its operations against the enemy; particularly that part of it under the orders of Colonel Don Jose Mondeden, who on the 14th of March made prisoners of above half of the garrison of Cogulludo, which had sallied out to attack him, the remainder of this garrison retired and made its escape on the night of the 27th, hearing that the Empecinado was on the march to besiege them.

The province of Guadalupe was now in the most deplorable state, for independent of a bad harvest the enemy had laid it waste. Whilst the Empecinado was in Arragon no bread could be procured for the troops; the inhabitants themselves were without it, and were almost starving. Mar-

tin resolved to feed his troop from the stores of the enemy, and accordingly marched in the night of the 30th and attacked the garrison of Toriga, drove it into the castle, and carried off a quantity of corn from the magazine which they had formed in that place: the next day he marched to Bredia to attack a column of the enemy laying waste that part of the country, but it retreated before he got near it. He now crossed the Tagus and proceeded towards Cuenca, and on the 11th of April attacked a strong column which came out of Tarralba to meet him, he completely routed it, killed and wounded a number of men, and made prisoners seventy dragoons; the enemy received a reinforcement and thought they could surround and cut him off, but he recrossed the Tagus with his prisoners; and on the 28th having joined the division of General Villacampa they marched together upon Guadalaxara. In a few days this general returned to Arragon, the Empecinado took the road to Cuenca, and resolved to attack the garrison of that city. He put this plan into execution on the 9th of May, when he drove the enemy out of the town; took possession of it, and obliged the garrison of the castle to shut itself up, leaving a

great number of killed and wounded in the streets; amongst the killed was the Baron Hugo Nardon, a relation of the intruder Joseph; all the equipages and baggage of the officers, including the generals', and the Duke of Mahon's, and the effects of the treasury fell into the hands of his soldiers, amongst whom exclusively he divided all the treasure, the officers taking no share of it. In this action the gallant captain of cavalry Don Antonio Martin, the brother of the Empécinado, received a musket shot through the thigh when charging at the head of the regiment of cavalry of Madrid. The French who had shut themselves up in the castle made their escape at night, except a company of sappers who lost their way, fell in with the Spanish piquets, and were made prisoners.

Our general proceeded to Gascuena for the purpose of supplying his troops with provisions. On the 16th the enemy building with the greatest confidence upon being able to surprise him marched upon that town, but finding the troops were completely upon the alert they changed their direction, and full of rage and disappointment moved upon Priego where they expected to destroy the battalion of Cuenca in its infant state;

but the steady and intrepid conduct of this young corps would have done credit to the oldest regiment in the service; it kept up for a considerable time a steady and well directed fire upon the enemy, whose force was composed of cavalry and infantry supported by artillery; and when overpowered by numbers and obliged to retire, the retreat was effected during the night with a coolness and gallantry that showed they were worthy of the confidence of the Empecinado.

He was informed that a column of the enemy had left Guadalupe and was committing excesses in the neighbourhood of Sigüenza, he set out with a part of his corps to endeavour to overtake it, and by forced marches succeeded in doing so; on the 20th he came up with it in the neighbourhood of Iviernas close to the foot of the mountains, and although his troops had that day marched twenty-four miles without food, he did not hesitate instantly to attack it, and very few indeed (and those dispersed amongst the mountains) were able to escape, and under cover of the night make their way back to Brihuega.

Our general was celebrated for taking as bold a part in every enterprise and battle that was fought as the bravest soldier of his

division, and in this affair he gave a signal proof of the attachment he felt for every individual of it; one of his trumpeters who was made prisoner and was guarded by three dragoons called out to him "General, I was once in Joseph's service, they are going to shoot me." He instantly rushed alone upon this party like lightning, and set at liberty the prisoner; two officers of French dragoons who knew the person of the Empecinado charged at him, the first who came up he shot dead, and whilst resisting the attack of the other some of his own soldiers came up, and the second officer shared the fate of his companion.

This occurrence which marked as much humanity as valour has not perhaps been equalled during the war, and as it was witnessed by almost his whole division, it created such enthusiasm that every individual seemed animated with the same feelings, and there was an unusual and earnest anxiety manifested by all the soldiers to march against the enemy. Whenever an opportunity offered they were indulged in this, for scarcely a day passed up to the 3rd of July, without a repetition of the same kind of warfare, attacks of flying columns, detachments cut off, convoys intercepted,



the garrisons kept in check, &c. On the 3rd of July the Empecinado was obliged to retire from Sigüenza, as General Paris, at the head of nine thousand men, marched into that part of the country to obtain provisions; our general kept his corps collected and constantly hung upon the rear or flanks of the French column, and thus protected the inhabitants from the barbarous aggressions of their invaders.

Our general had another opportunity of bringing his whole corps into action with the garrison of Colemenar Viego which he drove back into that town, and in the latter part of the same day (4th July) in the neighbourhood of Mauzanares he attacked a strong column which had marched to support the garrison of Colemenar. The loss of the enemy was very considerable; and the action was remarkable because almost the whole body guard of the self-styled *King Joseph* was engaged, and received a lesson which they never forgot. On the 8th the general heard that one hundred men were dispersed through the valley of Lozoga collecting cattle, he detached an equal number in pursuit of them, and so well were his orders obeyed by the captain of his detachment, with the assistance of the peasants,

that only one officer and nine privates escaped.

The fifth division was now employed in watching the garrisons of Alcala, Guadaluaxara, Alcovendos, Buitrago, and Brihucga which they kept constantly upon the alert. But a report of the intended retreat of the intruder Joseph to Valencia having reached our general, he assembled his whole force for the purpose of attacking the garrison of Buitrago, which had been reinforced by the detachment from Somoscirra and ten pieces of artillery, and had marched from Madrid on the 10th. He attacked them with the greatest gallantry on the broken ground, close to the town of La Cabrera; their loss was very serious and they began to give way, but at that moment the Empecinado was wounded by a musket shot in the breast and was unfortunately obliged to be carried off the field; this gave rise to a report that he was killed, and had great effect upon the spirits of his troops, so that the enemy profiting by it retired comparatively unmolested in their retreat, but leaving behind them a number of killed and wounded; all the corn and provisions they had been plundering, and the greater part of their baggage, ammunition, and carts.

Our hero was not quite recovered from the effects of his wound when his ardent desire to be useful at a moment so critical as that of the evacuation of Madrid induced him to put himself again at the head of his division and conduct an attack on the garrisons of Arganza, Villarejo Fuentiduena, and Tarancon: he crossed the Tagus with all his infantry and the cavalry of Guadalaxara. The intelligence of this movement had so great an effect on the enemy that all these garrisons retreated upon Madrid, which precluded his attempting the intended enterprise: his brother Don Antonio Martin fell in with the renegade and infamous Villagarcia near Cabanillas, and almost destroyed his whole troop, a few privates, a trumpeter, and himself being the only persons who escaped.

All the operations of the enemy now made it evident that Joseph's intention to quit the capital was not only seriously in agitation, but soon to be carried into effect; our general therefore made such dispositions as he thought likely to enable him to cut off completely the garrison of Guadalaxara, and having posted his infantry for that purpose, he marched with the cavalry direct upon the capital. On the 10th of August he

left Chamartin with thirty picked men, and boldly rushed into the gates of Madrid, sabring numbers of French soldiers in the streets, almost up to the Puerta del Sol, and brought off with him four prisoners, one of whom was a captain of the civic guard. The French army now marched out of Madrid with the intruder Joseph, and attacked the British advanced guard at Rozas; during its march Martin harassed it much, and the next day, the 12th, he had the honour to accompany the Duke of Wellington at his triumphal entry into the capital.

On the 14th he returned to Guadalaxara, and the following day the garrison surrendered to him; on the 16th he took possession of that city, which for three years had been the focus of the banditti who had been persecuting him.

The surrender of this place enabled the Empecinado to equip his corps brilliantly; grenadier caps, accoutrements, caps for the infantry, clothing, in short his division put on the appearance of highly dressed soldiers. He took an eight-inch howitzer, two four-pounders, and eight mountain guns, two pounders, and all the ammunition, wagons, &c. belonging to them, two stands of colours, between seven and eight millions of reals'

worth of cloth, and other effects of which he immediately made inventories and remitted them to the Intendant of the province, without retaining one single thing except cloth enough to give to every officer of his division a suit of uniform.

He allowed his troops to rest a few days, and proceeded to Cuenca for the purpose of assisting the battalion of infantry of that name, which had been for several days blockading the French; but before his arrival one thousand five hundred men had joined that garrison, and taken it off in safety.

He pressed on detachments upon the road to Requena, and pushed picquets across the river Cabriel, remaining himself in Cuenca, and waiting the orders of the commander-in-chief, to whom he reported the operations that had taken place, the measures he had adopted, and his intention of placing his whole division at Campillo de Alto Buey, unless otherwise directed. His Excellency approved of every thing that had been done, and of the movements proposed by the Empecinado, who accordingly took post at Campillo, and his advanced guard kept the garrison of Requena in constant alarm.

On the 14th of September General Meus-

nier at the head of sixteen battalions and eight hundred horse left that city; during the night of the 16th he passed the Cabriel at two points, and at daybreak attacked and drove in the Spanish outposts. The Empecinado commenced a retreat in presence of this overwhelming force with such coolness and judgment that his six hundred cavalry which covered his corps detained the enemy seven hours in their advance of twelve miles, and made such an impression upon General Meusnier that he was heard to say "he had never seen an operation conducted with more ability\*."

The French reached Almadovar del Pinar. The Empecinado fell back upon Cuenca, where he mustered his troops and *proclaimed and swore allegiance to the Constitution*; he left strong detachments in observation of the enemy, who again retired upon Requena. The fifth division immediately advanced upon Campillo. The French General D'Armangue in a few days took post at Jui-

\* The Madrid Gazette of the 15th of October gave the credit of this brilliant retreat to General Bassecourt, who in good truth left the different posts occupied by his division in such a hurry that the enemy never saw any part of his corps during the whole retreat, except one detachment under the command of a captain of cavalry, who cut up a party of the enemy while plundering Motilla.

esta within three leagues of Campillo with 6000 men and four pieces of artillery, but the Empecinado did not retire until the bulk of the army of Joseph had reached Utiel, when it became necessary to retire upon Almadova to avoid being surrounded; he cantoned his infantry amongst the neighbouring villages, in order to relieve the poor inhabitants as much as possible from the weight of feeding them, resting the left of his line upon Valverde, which town was occupied by General Bassecourt's division: this town was attacked on the 18th of October; General Bassecourt fell back without halting upon Cuenca, and without apprising the Empecinado of his retreat: the French advanced to Valeras. The fifth division was thus cut off, and placed in such a situation as to make it scarcely possible that it could obey the orders of the general-in-chief, which were, to retire upon Cuenca.

The Empecinado however obtained intelligence of the rapid retreat of Bassecourt's corps at two o'clock on the morning of the 19th, and immediately commenced his own, but quick as he was and indefatigable as his troops were, they could not all reach Cuenca that same day; the battalions of Madrid and Guadalaxara did so, but the re-

mainder of the infantry and the whole of the cavalry which was employed in covering the retreat were effectually cut off, and obliged to hazard the operation of crossing the Jucar at Villelba dela Sierra; fortunately this dangerous undertaking was effected without the loss of a man. On the 20th in the morning the enemy appeared at Cuenca: the Empecinado who had with him only the two regiments of infantry Guadalaxara and Madrid and two companies of light infantry that had been left in garrison at Cuenca, in all about two thousand four hundred infantry, determined to oppose the entrance of the French, and a long and bloody conflict ensued. Martin who felt how much depended upon delaying the enemy and retarding his ulterior operations at that critical moment persisted in defending the entrance of the town, particularly at the bridges, although the disparity in number of those who attacked and those who defended might well have sanctioned his early retreat (the enemy had eight thousand infantry, two thousand cavalry, and five guns), yet did our gallant general protract his defence eight hours. The resistance made at the bridge of St. Antonio was most heroic: the bayonet was there in constant use; when at



last the retreat was inevitable he effected it with such cool determined courage and ability that he was only pursued for the space of half an hour: his loss was ninety-four killed, one hundred and eighty-six wounded, and twenty-two made prisoners; amongst the wounded was the gallant Don Nicolas De Joidro: the loss of the enemy who had been exposed so many hours to the steady fire of musketry from the windows was consequently very great. It is but fair now to state that the retreat of which I have just spoken and the three others which have been detailed afford sufficient evidence of the military talents of our *Castilian peasant* to allow us to look upon him as a consummate general; bold, enterprising, and determined in his attacks; cool, deliberate, and successful in his retreats.

He now repaired with his whole force to prevent the passage of the Tagus at the bridge of Aunon: he destroyed the fords immediately, and the mine of the bridge was completed on the 24th.

He was then ordered by the general-in-chief to repair to the line of the river Jarama and proceed to Guadalaxara; but the French having again occupied Madrid, he was ordered to change his direction and

move upon Tarancon with his cavalry, leaving his infantry in the mountains of Almorlaud. Within a few miles of Tarancon his advance of fifty men of the regiment of dragoons of Madrid came in contact with an equal number of dragoons of the regiment of Napoleon; each party charged without hesitation and in the most determined way; the loss on both sides was great, but that of the enemy particularly so, for only fourteen escaped; all the rest were either killed or made prisoners. General Palombini who commanded at Tarancon immediately retired upon Madrid, and was closely pursued to the very gates of the capital with the loss of many prisoners.

The second Spanish army directed its march to Murcia, and our general received orders to return to the old theatre of his operations, and to continue the war of destruction to the enemy which he had so long and so successfully carried on; for this purpose he fitted up the passage boat upon the Tagus at Almorlaud, and the whole of his division passed across unmolested. The infantry moved upon Guadalaxara, and he himself with the cavalry took post at Vallecas, and kept the court at Madrid in continual apprehension of being attacked, the

French or their partisans not daring even to drive out upon the roads (which were always before crowded in the evenings) beyond musket shot of the gates. And when the enemy again evacuated this city upon the 9th of November, our general hung upon their rear and flanks, in observation of their movements until the 7th of December, when he returned to Madrid and marched to Sigüenza.

From thence he directed all his operations, detaching small corps opportunely to prevent the enemy's foraging parties from plundering or committing excesses, and occasionally presenting strong bodies in front of their garrisons to alarm and keep them in check: this he effectually did, even that of Buitrago which was a strong one. He detached the battalion of sharpshooters of Sigüenza and the regiment of cavalry of Guadalaxara to cover the province on the side of old Castile, and to free the country about Sepulveda, Aillon, and Riaza from the excesses of the Spanish parties known by the names of *Bourbons* and *Puchas*, to which a number of deserters from the Spanish armies had attached themselves, and were guilty of the most barefaced robberies.

Our general's objects were both fulfilled;

he compelled the French to evacuate Buitrago, and the party of Puchas was disarmed; that of Bourbon dispersed and destroyed; and another of these partisan corps consisting of thirty mounted men, which bore a good character, was attached by him to his own division.

At the latter end of January, the corps which he had sent upon the frontier of old Castile, having completed its task, was at liberty, and he ordered it to march by the Somo Sierra and join the remainder of the division then at the *houses of Uceda*.

On the 29th in the morning, the Empeinado calculating that his troops would arrive in a few hours rode out to meet them, and when passing through the town of Cubillo he learned that about one hundred dragoons of the royal guard of Joseph were in Valdepiélagos; he did not hesitate a moment, but taking with him one hundred and thirty of the dragoons of Madrid and Guadalaxara, although they had marched twenty-four miles that day, he pushed on and fell in with the enemy at Valde Torres; scarcely a shot was exchanged. He charged them with the greatest intrepidity, nor did they display less in the way they received him; these two gallant little corps fought

desperately. twice did they charge each other, until at last the enemy retreated, that is to say, those that remained, for only thirty-two could effect their escape; twenty-four wounded were made prisoners, and the rest remained upon the field. The Empecinado lost sixteen men killed and forty-six wounded, and the gallant Captain Ramon Muriendo was shot dead at the head of his troop in one of the charges.

That same night advice was brought that a column of the enemy from Guadalajara (three hundred horse and three thousand foot) was in march upon *Siguenza*. He calculated that their intention was to destroy the battalion of Madrid, which had been left in charge of the artillery in that town, in consequence of its clothing being completely in rags and the season a very cold and severe one. He ordered his division to march for *Siguenza*; but upon his arrival there on the 1st of February, he learned that the battalion of Madrid had retired to *Medimulli*, in which town it had allowed itself to be surprised, and although there were many very gallant officers in that corps, whose exertions were not wanting to save it, yet the greater part of the regiment was obliged to surrender. The command-

ing officer had received positive orders in case of being obliged to retire, to do so by the *high roads of Soria or Arragon* ! On the 2d the French returned towards Sigüenza with the prisoners; but upon seeing the division of the Empecinado which was in waiting for them, they turned off towards Juijosa and halted during the night. The next morning at daybreak they attempted to force the town, but in vain; and they were driven into a deep ravine, where they must inevitably have been forced to surrender had not those wretches, the renegades Maneco and Villagarcia, who were perfectly well acquainted with the ground, led them out of the ravine up into the mountains by ways impracticable for the cavalry; notwithstanding the troops of the Empecinado were harassed and fatigued to death, particularly those who had come from the borders of Castile by forced marches, yet till nightfall they pursued the enemy, who lost about four hundred men killed and prisoners, and were obliged to abandon at the mountain of Peregrina all the grain they had plundered; and the greater number of the prisoners of the regiment of Madrid were able to make their escape. The Empecinado whose horse was shot under him

in this action was obliged to rest here as his troops were exhausted. The enemy marched the whole night, and of course reached Guadalupe without any further persecution. Our general directed his infantry to occupy Brihenga, and he sent the cavalry to Yeila and Cifuentes to rest and eat, which they had literally not done for twenty-two hours; notwithstanding this, upon hearing that four hundred of the enemy were plundering the towns of Aunon and the neighbouring villages, he that very night marched against them, and at daybreak of the 6th when he hoped to have caught them, they escaped into the mountains, leaving behind them however every thing they had plundered; even a quantity of money with which a mule was loaded fell into the hands of the Empecinado and was divided amongst his soldiers. Our general's operations were now confined to watching the different garrisons and keeping them in check; it became necessary however to give a few days rest to the troops and furnish them with shoes of which they were in the greatest want; for this purpose he assembled his division at Sigüenza.

General Hugo who had now collected in Guadalupe ten thousand men of both

arms, boasted that in a few days he would have in his hands the *head of the Empecinado*, and to effect this he marched from that city with three thousand men, and on the 24th of February presented himself in Mirabueno, at the same time that other columns moving on the right and left endeavoured to outflank and cut off the Empecinado; but he was apprised of their intention, and during the night retired to Riofrio, the only way by which he could have escaped, and at daybreak entered Atienza.

He thus completely foiled General Hugo, who full of vexation returned to Guadalupe, having harassed his troops ineffectually, and being obliged to confess that he was "*outgeneralled*."

Martin continued to retire along the chain of mountains, and heard that three hundred infantry and some cavalry were plundering in the neighbourhood of Buitrago, and ultimately intended to proceed to Cabzera: the dispositions which he immediately made for the purpose of cutting off this detachment must have insured success had the officer commanding the sharp shooters of Cuenca strictly obeyed his orders, which were to occupy a given position at a certain hour; this officer did not arrive for three



hours after the appointed time, and yet the enemy had only just at that moment got through the pass. This was not the first time, as may be supposed, that inattention and disobedience of orders occasioned entire failure in operations of this kind; a positively strict observance of military discipline and rigid subordination was not to be kept up in a corps composed or situated like our general's; for it was formed amidst the bayonets of the enemy, officered by persons whose minds and habits were diametrically opposite to those of military men, and even the necessary severity to which it was indispensable to have recourse to preserve subordination, was always put in force in the midst of the enemy's columns, with every temptation held out to the culprits not only to avoid punishment by escaping to them, but even to be rewarded for so doing. The advices from Madrid, and the movements of the enemy left no doubt as to their intention of again quitting that capital. The Empecinado, desirous of taking advantage of such an event, moved his division in the beginning of March to the high roads of Aranda and Segovia, to co-operate with the corps of Brigadier Don Geronimo Merino (the curate of Villubla). This movement

entirely freed that part of the country from being plundered, as was intended during the march of the enemy ; but on the 30th of that month, the garrison of Segovia being reinforced, and fifteen thousand men placed in eschellons in the neighbourhood of Sepulveda and Pedraza, for the express purpose of surrounding and cutting off the fifth division ; our general was obliged to risk an attack upon a column of two thousand men, posted at Cerezo on the heights, and endeavour to force them into Sepulveda in order to secure his own retreat across the Somo Sierra ; he effected his object completely, driving the enemy with some loss into Sepulveda, and thus passed the Somo Sierra without firing a shot. His brother Captain Don Antonio Martin with three squadrons of cavalry formed the advanced guard of his division, and on the 31st pushed into Talamanco, as it was intended to bring up the infantry that night to Torrelaguna. This advanced guard reached Talamanco at about one in the afternoon, having marched eighty-four miles in forty-eight hours, and the soldiers were just about to be billeted off, when one hundred and fifty dragoons of the enemy's regiment, No. 17, made their appearance ; notwithstanding

the state of fatigue in which both Spanish men and horses were found, yet the worthy brother of our hero resolved without hesitation to attack them; he did so by making a most gallant charge; he dispersed and routed them. The loss of the enemy was above sixty men killed, wounded, and prisoners, amongst the latter were a captain, a subaltern, and the infamous renegade the Marquis of Salinas. As this was perhaps one of the sharpest conflicts between corps of cavalry that took place during the war, so was the loss on the part of Don Antonio Martin very considerable.

The Empecinado now extended his line of operations along the right and left banks of the river *Nares*, and succeeded on the 10th of April in forcing the garrison of Alcala to fall back upon the river Jarama, and he cut up severely the French regiment of cavalry of Madrid and a detachment of infantry, which he fell in with in the plains of Loeches, hastening on by a forced march to support the garrison of Alcala.

The infantry of the fifth division now took post in its turn at Alcala, and the cavalry along the banks of the river, keeping in check and in constant alarm the garrisons of St. Fernando and Barajos. Martin

was determined to cut off all communication between Madrid and the neighbourhood of Alcala, and did so until the 20th of the month, when General Leval made one more effort to destroy his division. A corps of six thousand infantry, two thousand cavalry, and four pieces of artillery was pushed forward rapidly and silently towards Alcala, but after having received several checks from the regiment of cavalry of Madrid, reinforced by that of Guadalaxara, he had the mortification to see the Spanish infantry and artillery file over the bridge of Alcala, from which the Empecinado in person at the head of a company of grenadiers had beaten and driven before him one hundred French dragoons who had boldly taken possession of it. Soult in vain attempted to cross the Nares, although he brought up the whole of his corps for the purpose of forcing a passage. During the night the fifth division remained in Echellon in the neighbourhood of *Las Santy*, a league from Alcala, but at daybreak the 21st it retired to Armuna, to avoid being cut off by General Ormanacci who was marching with three thousand men upon the left bank of the river with the hope of turning his position and surrounding him.

Martin now resolved to show the enemy that he had not only succeeded in frustrating all their projects to destroy his division, but that he was able to meet them openly in the field: he therefore pushed forward to Utorche the regiment of Cuenca, under the orders of its gallant and meritorious chief Don Marullo Davila, who skirmished with the strong garrison of Guadalupe every day, but could not succeed in drawing it out of the town to bring on a general action; on the contrary, this corps retired to Madrid by a forced march without even plundering the Alcarras, so closely was it pressed by Don Damaso Martin brother to our general, who most opportunely received orders to march with his regiment of cavalry by Meco and Torrejon, and thus hung upon the left flank of the enemy with the greatest success.

The Empecinado with the remainder of his division followed Soult as far as Alcala, and the cavalry pursued him to the bridge of Viveros; the infantry then marched to take possession of Guadalupe, by order of the subinspector who had arrived by commission from the regency to pass in review the fifth division: after the inspection of

the infantry the cavalry was reinforced by the regiment of sharpshooters of Cuenca and the grenadiers and light infantry of the other corps, for the purpose of attacking a column which had crossed the river Jerama and was plundering all the villages upon its left bank; this little corps succeeded in forcing the enemy to recross the river and shut themselves up in St. Fernanda.

On the 21st all Martin's infantry was assembled in Alcala, and in the course of that night a column of French of two thousand infantry, three hundred cavalry, and two pieces of artillery marched against that town. The Empecinado had notice of their approach only a few moments before their arrival, but with his usual coolness he beat to arms and took up a position commanding the bridge, at the same instant that the enemy was entering the town at the opposite side; both parties remained quiet during the night, but at daybreak the action commenced and lasted for three hours without the least impression being made by those boasted conquerors of the world; the fifth division reaped immortal honour, for after resisting with such determination every effort to force the bridge or

cross the fords, it gallantly, in its turn, attacked the enemy, and rushing upon them drove them at the point of the bayonet and with great loss to St. Feranda, notwithstanding their being reinforced in their retreat by four hundred infantry and one hundred horse who joined them at Torrigon: they were so hardly pushed that they were even obliged to release the magistrates of Alcala, whom they had taken with them as prisoners for not carrying into effect their orders to levy a contribution; at the moment of releasing these people they told them to thank the Empecinado for their liberty. If the cavalry had come up in time, probably the enemy would have been completely cut off; as it was their loss was very severe, and Alcala and the neighbouring towns were saved from the plunder to which they were devoted in this *last visit* of the French, who were now preparing to abandon the capital.

Martini advised of the positive evacuation of Madrid on the night of 27th pushed forward on the morning of the 28th to the inn called Espiritu Santo, there he left the infantry which could not get up with the

enemy, and pressed forward with the cavalry and artillery and harassed their rear considerably until they reached the pass of Guadarrama. He there received an order to return immediately to Guadalaxara; this order seems to have been dictated by a jealous motive, as it prevented him from attending to a petition on the part of the Junta and Political Chief of Madrid, that he should send a detachment of his corps into the city to keep the peace; it however soon became imperiously necessary that he should do so, and under the sanction of the subinspector and at the assurance of the Magistrates of Madrid to take upon themselves all the responsibility of the measure, he sent in a strong detachment, and shortly afterwards marched in the remainder of his division and lined the streets at the Procession of Corpus. His corps was received with all the expressions of joy and delight that can be conceived: this grateful people had closely observed all his operations, and the conduct by which he had so deservedly gained the affection of his countrymen and forced from the enemy an acknowledgment of his worth. On the 25th of August he received orders from his



Excellency the Duke of Ciudad Rodrigo \* to join the second army in the neighbourhood of Tortosa. His division, unaccustomed to eat the bread of idleness, received this order with the greatest enthusiasm, and commenced its march; it reached its destination the 21st of September; it was composed of four brilliant regiments of infantry and two of cavalry, and the artillery consisted of one howitzer and two four-pounders (which he had taken from the enemy at Guadalaxara) completely appointed†. The reception of this division in every town through which it passed was truly gratifying, and sufficiently repaid it for all its labours in the service of its country. Immortal Zaragoza, within whose walls it halted six days, bore public testimony to the exemplary conduct of these men, who were to be admired as much for their gentle manners and urbanity to their fellow citizens as for

\* Duke of Wellington.

† Infantry of Madrid	1000, of Guadalaxara	1000	}	4000
Infantry of Siguenza	1000, of Cuenca	1000		
Cavalry of Madrid	400, of Guadalaxara	400		800
	Artillery	50		50

Total 4850

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their determined and unconquerable opposition to the enemy.

The fifth division was posted in the part of the lines round Tortosa, where the most unceasing watchfulness and the highest discipline was required, always upon the alert, liable to instantaneous attack; it did not in the slightest degree tarnish its high character and well merited reputation. His system was to keep his troops in perpetual motion; thus he accustomed them to bear fatigue and kept them out of vice, the natural result of idleness.

He protected and assisted in every way the partisan corps which conducted themselves well, but he was a bitter enemy to those who, instead of acting against the French, were employed in oppressing the villages. Nothing made him more popular than this line of conduct which he adopted early in the day and strictly acted upon. His Excellency General Blake aware of the feelings of the Empecinado upon this subject gave him full powers over all the partisan corps within his reach.

He never imposed a pecuniary contribution upon either an individual or a town under any pretence whatever, and the in-

dispensable requisitions for shoes, sandals, shirts, &c. for his troops, were regulated with the strictest attention to economy, and nothing was allowed to be taken as a substitute for the thing required; this custom he was aware from what occurred in other corps introduced a system of extravagance and an abuse of order that was unpardonable.

So much did he consult the good of the people and particularly of the towns liable to suffer from the enemy that he has frequently been known to send back to them sums of money extorted by the French, and taken by him whilst under convoy of the enemy.

In Calatayud he prevented a Spanish general from levying a contribution of five thousand dollars which he had imposed upon the inhabitants as a *right of conquest* for having driven the French out of the town!

The Magistrates and Justices of Payas and Bucudia and the Alcalde of Jadraque Don N. Castillo were made prisoners in an affair with the French near Guadalaxara, and detained by the Empecinado until he investigated their conduct. He found that they were forced by the enemy to carry a

quantity of silver in bars and money to Guadalupe in lieu of various articles which had been required from their towns. He not only returned to them their money, but gave them regular certificates which they might produce to the French, to show that the treasure had been taken from them by force. Our general often acted in this way. He expended the public money with the most scrupulous economy, and superintended its distribution with minute attention, and accounted for it with the greatest precision.

He was accused by the enemy of putting to death all the foreigners who deserted from them and joined his corps; in order to do away this impression he began by employing a number of these deserters as orderlies about his own person, and at last formed a troop of them, which he called the German Flankers. This soon reached the ears of the French soldiers, and it may be safely said that he induced above six thousand men to desert from their ranks. His humanity to the wounded and prisoners was so well known to the French generals, that they directed all the *Empecinados* to be treated with the greatest respect; indeed

General Suchet to mark his opinion of the humane and officer-like conduct of our general sent to him a number of Spanish officers equal to the number of French ones who had been made prisoners by Martin in Calatayud, but who were to join the French army without any stipulation as to exchange; and also sent back a young lad a cadet who had been badly wounded and made prisoner, and desired him to say to the Empecinado how glad he was to have that opportunity of marking his respect for him \*.

The military operations of Brigadier General Don Juan Martin have been detailed. I will now attempt to describe the person and character of this celebrated chieftain.

This extraordinary man is a little above the middle stature with a firmly knit and muscular frame which indicates a capability of sustaining privation and fatigue: his complexion is dark, his beard strong and of a sable hue, his eyes black, animated, and sparkling. His mental powers are strong

\* Don Manuel Martin his brother had fought by his side the whole of the years 1808 and 1809, and had retired to his farm. In 1810 he was taken a prisoner to Valladolid by order of General Kellerman and put into a dungeon, but afterwards released by order of General Belliard in return for the humane conduct of Martin towards his prisoners.

and calm in acting, and both clear and quick in perceiving. Of this superiority he has given unequivocal proofs in the high military talent he displayed; for he is active, enterprising, judicious, and by his personal example inspiring the brave with heroism and the timid with resolution—in his letters—in his celebrated address to his king—and in the manner in which he has borne adversity, calumny, and prosperity. The qualities of his heart are of a corresponding stamp, for he was dutiful and affectionate to his aged parent; he is modest in his demeanour and ingenuous in his communications, considerate even in war of the convenience and feelings of those whom he called upon for assistance—he forgave his persecutors and slanderers and returned them good for evil, he was merciful to his enemies, faithful to his country, and just to all men. He never sought reward for his conduct, though he solicited it for those who served under him with gallantry, he never vaunted of his exploits, but detailed their results with simplicity to the constituted authorities. He raised and organized an army without money and without support, when surrounded by an active enemy, and though exposed to great and

various difficulties, and embarrassed by envy, jealousy, intrigue, and mutiny, he was victorious over the experienced commanders and disciplined legions of hostile France. In him the great and varied qualities are combined which constitute a true patriot and hero. His deeds and his name will be handed down to the latest ages, and call for the veneration and imitation not only of his countrymen but of mankind.

*Representation made to the King by Don Juan  
Martin the Empecinado, on the 13th of Fe-  
bruary, 1815.*

SIRE,

Madrid.

To get into favour with kings by flattering them is very easy; but to tell them naked truths without offending them is one of the things most difficult.

However there have been found sovereigns at different periods and in different countries who, animated with the sincere desire of making their subjects happy, have honoured and preferred those men who with honest simplicity have laid open to them their errors instead of concealing them. Although convinced of this truth, yet I do not approach the feet of your Majesty entirely free from the apprehension of displeasing you; not because I do not feel perfectly convinced that your Majesty has no wish more sincerely at heart than that of benefiting the condition of your people, and to do so would spare no means, no personal exertions; but because the per-



sons who surround your Majesty have so effectually deceived you that my conduct, which is solely governed by pure zeal for the good of my country and the glory of your Majesty, will be so misrepresented and interpreted by them that I almost fear they will persuade your Majesty that my honest and frank representation is the child of cabal and premeditated intrigue: yet, Sire, with my eyes open to the probability of being so misrepresented, I cannot check the feelings by which I am animated and which I may venture to say have obtained for me the character of a good Spaniard and a loyal subject, in both of which titles I glory; and if my services against the enemies of Spain and of your Majesty did not sufficiently guarantee my loyalty, *this very act of mine* for no other purpose than that of preserving the fair fame of your Majesty in all its purity ought and I trust will save me from the imputation of being led to take this step by any improper motive; an imputation which I have no doubt will be cast upon me by those servile courtiers, of whose language and customs, thank God, I am ignorant.

With unbounded confidence in the benignity of your Majesty, I venture then to expose the danger with which I see you sur-

rounded, and to conceal which would be unpardonable; nor would it be less so if I were not to declare that the only remedy I can perceive is to follow a diametrically opposite conduct to that which your Majesty now observes.

Sire, your Majesty arrived from a sadly protracted captivity: every Spaniard wished his neighbour joy at thus seeing the desire of his heart and the object of all his toils completely gratified.

In an instant your Majesty was surrounded by *grandees* and persons who were formerly employed under Godoy\*. These people, who in no way contributed to either the glory of your Majesty or of their country by taking part in the heroic struggle which she maintained against France—these *ciphers*—these *nonentities*—these *nothings*, who remained, during the whole war, in Cadiz or other secure places, in the midst of luxuries passive spectators of what was occurring, and although many of them military men, yet looking on with cold indifference at the sacrifice of property and lives which was made every hour under their very beards; nothing could stimulate them to assist their country

\* Godoy was the detested Prince of Peace.

either with their means or with their persons!

What could be the object of such people in hastening to be the *first* to surround your Majesty?

Was it to show their devotion and attachment to your Majesty?—No: they felt *neither* at the moment when *both* were required.

Was it to explain to your Majesty with candid sincerity the *actual state of the nation*?—No; for if they had done so, we should not have now to deplore its state and the evils of which we all complain.

SIRE,

I will tell your Majesty what I think they did: they surprised you by their artful conduct into a belief of all they represented; they placed you at the head of a party desirous only of gratifying their private revenge and carrying their particular objects; they cared not to what deplorable evils they exposed their country, they never felt for her like *Spaniards*!

I, Sire, never belonged to any party, either servile or liberal; I never entered into political disputes, God forbid I ever should; a soldier and a mere soldier; I venture to tell your Majesty what *I* should have said, had I been so fortunate as to

have been near your royal person at that moment. I should have held this language:—

SIRE,

When your Majesty was seduced into France by the basest treachery Spain was delivered up to anarchy and confusion, and nothing but the unanimous desire to punish such an outrage could have conducted us all to the same goal without being led away by private passions; yet such was the case *at first*: but surely it was not extraordinary that, in the absence of your Majesty whom we were all bound to obey, there should have existed an infinity of different political opinions! The ideas of men are so much at variance, and the medium through which they see things is so different that it makes it almost impossible to find any two men who think precisely alike; but suppose for a moment that two such persons were found, will they form the *same plan*? Will they avail themselves of the *same means* to bring about the *same object*? It is not to be expected. How then can it be considered a crime under such circumstances that; *I do not think as another man does*, or that; *I do not see things as he sees them*?

No, Sire, your Majesty ought not to look back upon the time of your absence, except for the purpose of admiring the valour and constancy of your people, which led them to make such extraordinary sacrifices rather than obey any other monarch than Ferdinand the Seventh!

All the faults and errors we committed during your absence should be forgiven: we were children without a parent—orphans without a guardian.

Mount the throne of your ancestors, Sire, that throne which every Spaniard of every way of thinking wishes to see filled by Ferdinand the Seventh; and from that exalted post direct these words to your people:

“My children, I acknowledge the service you have rendered me; I grieve at the serious calamities to which you have been subjected; I will labour to remedy these evils to the best of my abilities, and my sole object shall be to make you happy. To bring about this my anxious wish, I will begin by shutting my eyes and ears against all details of party spirit, and I shall consider all differences of opinion to have originated in the peculiar situation of the country: there must be no more dissensions, no more parties. Be assured I will labour unceasingly for

your welfare: unite then and help me, wise men of the nation; I require your assistance; you shall no longer be persecuted as you have been\*; I call upon you to submit for my consideration the means of making my subjects happy; I wish to remove every obstacle to their happiness by adopting proper measures; I will issue no decrees until I shall have consulted the wishes of my people."

After saying this, Sire, descend from your throne, and receive into your arms the wise men of all parties; thus the hearts of all will be united, and your Majesty will want nothing to ensure the prosperity of your own country and to command the respect of every other.

Thus, Sire, would the Empecinado have advised your Majesty.

What has been the result of following the councils of those who advised the opposite system? The total loss of the Americas! and that you have afforded to the people of those countries a pretext for exculpating their conduct by throwing into prison their representative deputies, who were in general

\* Admirals Cayetano, Valdes and Arguelles and many other patriots were then in gaol; Count Toreno and many others were banished.

men of the highest distinction and the most beloved by their countrymen; add to which whole families in *that part* of the world and *this* have been thrown into the deepest despair, some lamenting the loss of their husbands, others of their fathers; here a child torn from them, there a brother! There is scarcely a family in the peninsula that has not to deplore the fate of some connexion or bosom friend now dragging on a miserable existence in the loathsome dungeons of the capital or other towns; nay, so over filled are all the prisons throughout the country, that to the disgrace of humanity be it known, many convents are fitted up as gaols for the reception of *supposed* delinquents.

It would be better, Sire, that those who advised measures so opposite to the feelings of your Majesty, should have a chain about their necks! *They* are much more deserving of punishment; for to gratify their own private resentments they have compromised the good faith of your Majesty, and exposed you to the sarcasms of every foreign journal, and have created even in your own nation enemies who employ themselves in propagating falsehoods and in spreading indecorous libels against your royal person; I say they propagate untruths, because I at-

tribute all to your *Majesty's advisers*. Pardon me, Sire, if I forget my humble situation and overstep my bounds; but I cannot check my feelings nor contain myself when I see these men with such shameful indifference compromising the dignity, the glory, and the honour of their king and of their country! Turn your eyes, Sire, for a moment to the finance of Spain, what a chaos! what a labyrinth! from which those who enter know not how to extricate themselves. Such is the complication, such the want of system, that no progress towards improvement is ever made! not even an angel descended from heaven could conduct the office of finance unless the whole plan was entirely changed. When the nation saw your Majesty ascend the throne, it looked for and expected improvement; but, Sire, judge with what sorrow did we read the decree *that things should revert to the state in which they were in the year 1808!* If so many wise and intelligent Spaniards had not already written their opinions and criticised upon the actual mode of carrying on public business (that of 1808), and proved beyond contradiction the evils which resulted to agriculture, to commerce, and to the arts and sciences, I would have ventured to say



a few words upon the subject; but it would be time and labour lost. The truth of what they have so ably stated is evident to the world, and therefore it behoves your Majesty to apply the *only remedy, that of convoking the cortes and assembling its members in the quickest possible space of time*; thus saving the country and *fulfilling your Majesty's promise of the 4th of May of the last year!* If this step is not taken how is the government to be carried on? It is impossible to expect any considerable loan; the country has fallen back to its original state, and is without any credit! for it has given up the *means*, and the only ones it had (as the Americas are lost) of paying the common interest of a debt! How have the ecclesiastical cabildas repaid your Majesty for having annulled the decrees of the Cortes of the 25th of January 1811, and 16th of June 1812, by which you exonerated them from paying the contributions upon tithes? How I say have they repaid your Majesty for this favour? Why, by refusing to assist your Majesty when you called upon them for a *temporary* loan to meet the pressing exigencies of the state! Yes, Sire, though your Majesty offered to them as a guarantee for

the repayment of this loan, the produce of those most lucrative branches of finance, the *novenos* and *escusados*, yet only a few of the cabildas stepped forward to assist your Majesty, and those with only the *offer* of seventeen millions of reals, of which barely *four millions* were really produced, although the funds ceded to them from which to repay themselves amount to above *one hundred* millions of reals! This conduct, Sire, is abominable, and is deprecated by all who know it.—I would venture humbly to suggest that the restoration of property to the friars should only be in proportion to the *positive* wants of those who *now* live, and who are necessary to carry on the religious duties of the country; but the remainder should be appropriated to the payment of the national debt. This same consideration should be borne in mind when certain high ecclesiastical preferments become vacant; they should not be filled; your Majesty has directed this line of conduct in the cases of the *Beneficios* and *Prestameros*.—Sire, nothing is to be done with the Spanish people by force and rigour; the most that can be expected by such a system is to smother the voice of the nation for a short time; but the hour of

vengeance will come, and the people will avail themselves of that hour; I am authorized to say this by the history of Spain in all times.

The mild administration of justice so highly appreciated in Spain in former days is not now to be met with in our tribunals! it has disappeared, and in its place nothing but *injustice* is to be found! The laws are despised and trampled upon; calumny and vile treachery are upheld. Thus any man wishing to be revenged of his enemy has only to denounce him guilty of an imaginary crime before a magistrate, and he is forthwith hurried off to a dungeon where he is kept in solitary confinement cut off from all communication with the world; and if he should by chance be brought to trial and be declared innocent, yet the calumniator remains unpunished!

Ah, Sire, if your Majesty would but reflect upon the misery which is entailed upon a family by persecuting and separating from it the father, the husband, or the brother!

Sire, such persecution cannot be permitted to last long; how is it to be supposed that such a system of terror and desolation can be suffered to exist for a moment?

How much more would it accord with your

mode of thinking and the known kindness of heart of your Majesty, to make yourself *loved* rather than *dreaded* by your people.

In addition, Sire, to all that I have said, I must not conceal from your Majesty, that I am apprised by persons of the strictest integrity, that representatives from numerous corporations of cities and towns throughout Spain, are pouring in to Charles IV\*, complaining of the actual state of things, and praying him to return, promising him their support if he does so, and building upon the general dissatisfaction which pervades the nation : from the same quarter I have learned that these representations have created a strange sensation in different cabinets ; of this however it does not become me to speak ; your Majesty must be better informed through your diplomatic agents.

I have already told you, Sire, that nothing but the affection I bear to your Majesty could induce me to lay before you these plain unpalatable truths which may perhaps offend, but which I feel it my duty to detail, because the public without reflection attributes to your Majesty all the defects and

\* Father to Ferdinand VII. King of Spain, dethroned by Buonaparte's intrigues.

evils which belong only to the ill disposed persons who surround and advise you.

But I implore you, Sire, not to despise the exposition I have made; but to consider it as the strongest proof I can give of my devoted attachment to your royal person; and I beseech you, Sire, to apply a speedy remedy; if you do not, I fear that when your Majesty may hereafter wish to do so, it will be too late! the good and well thinking people will then suffer and deplore the state of things; but they will lament in vain. Your Majesty will have allowed the golden opportunity to pass—the day will have gone by!

THE EMPECINADO.

*At the feet of your Majesty.*

Madrid, 13th February 1815.

## CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN

**SIR C. DOYLE AND THE EMPECINADO.**

*Letter of the Empecinado to His Excellency  
Lieutenant-General Don Carlos Doyle.*

MOST EXCELLENT SIR,

ONCE more at the head of my division, I look forward with glowing hope to the hour when I can again kill Gavachos\* and revenge my country. You need not lecture me upon the subject of bearing malice, or allowing the base intrigues of the late junta to draw off my attention for one moment from the essential point, the destruction of the enemies of Spain; but in order to carry into effect this my wish, and it is also yours, I must have arms and ammunition. Where should I look for assistance, but to him who has identified himself with the Spanish na-

\* Name given to the French.

tion, and who has been and is one of her most zealous advocates and gallant defenders? Assist me then, Senor Don Carlos, and use your influence with the British Ambassador to procure for me *one* thousand firelocks at least; had I *five* thousand I could produce hands to receive them. Send them I implore you, and I bind myself by the honour of a Castillian, if God preserves my life, to repay to the British government the value of these arms with the money which my corps will take from French convoys, and from the persons of those whose flesh and bones shall manure the Spanish soil! The prayers of every true Spaniard are offered up for the preservation of your life so valuable and dear to us all.

May God preserve your excellency a thousand years.

#### THE EMPECINADO.

Siguenza, 18th of August 1811.

*The Answer of His Excellency Lieutenant-General Don Carlos Doyle.*

Isla de Leon, 20th of September 1811.

MY ESTEEMED FRIEND AND COMPANION  
IN ARMS,

IN your letter of the 18th of last month, from Siguenza, which I have this moment received, you ask for one thousand stand of arms; you will scarcely rejoice more than I do at knowing that our most zealous and active Don Pedro\* left this four days ago with the things named in the margin†, to obtain which he has been in England using incessant exertion. I need not tell you that we all feel entire confidence in the good use to which you will put these supplies.

I congratulate you and your country

\* Mr. Peter Tupper, British Consul at Valencia.

† Two thousand stands of arms, two thousand sets of accoutrements, two hundred thousand rounds of ball cartridges, four mountain guns four-pounders, sixty rounds of ammunition for each gun, five hundred swords, five hundred pistols and various other appointments, all expressly for your division.



upon the command of the fifth division having again devolved upon the *Empecinado*. Yes, Martin, I am quite sure that Spain will benefit by it, and I am equally certain that your true patriotic feelings will overcome any private ones which might urge you (and in truth with reason) to expose the conduct of the junta, and by so doing to revenge the harsh treatment you have received; but remember, Don Juan, the eyes of the nation are upon you, and however natural, however just it might be that you should vindicate yourself, yet the duty you owe to your country ought to be, and *must* be paramount to every other feeling; do not then allow one moment of your time to be thrown away upon the recollection of *what has passed*; but let your redoubled exertions for the future prove that your *mind is too great* to allow intrigue or any thing to turn you from the steady course which you have hitherto pursued in this glorious struggle for the liberties of your country; continue then to labour in her service with unabated zeal.

You say you will pay for the arms that are sent to you; it will not be necessary, the governments of Spain and Great Bri-

tain will arrange all that hereafter. Write to me constantly, and rely upon my exertions to serve you; be assured you have a warm friend in Don Henrique\*; he is a great admirer of your conduct, and I may safely say *he is Spain's best friend!* Wherever he sees *real* exertion made, there will he assist; but he knows well how to discriminate.

Direct to me, Isla de Leon.

Always your friend,

CARLOS DOYLE.

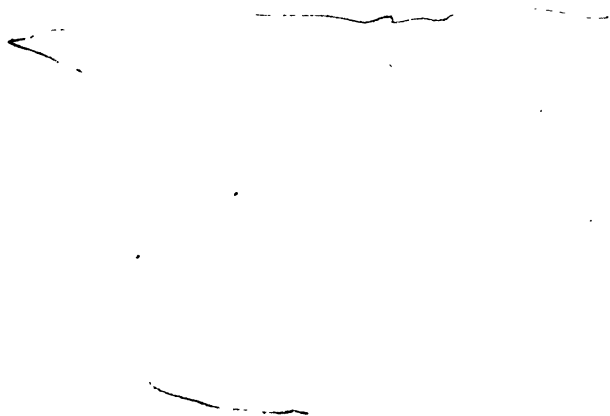
\* Sir Henry Wellesley, British Ambassador.

FINIS.

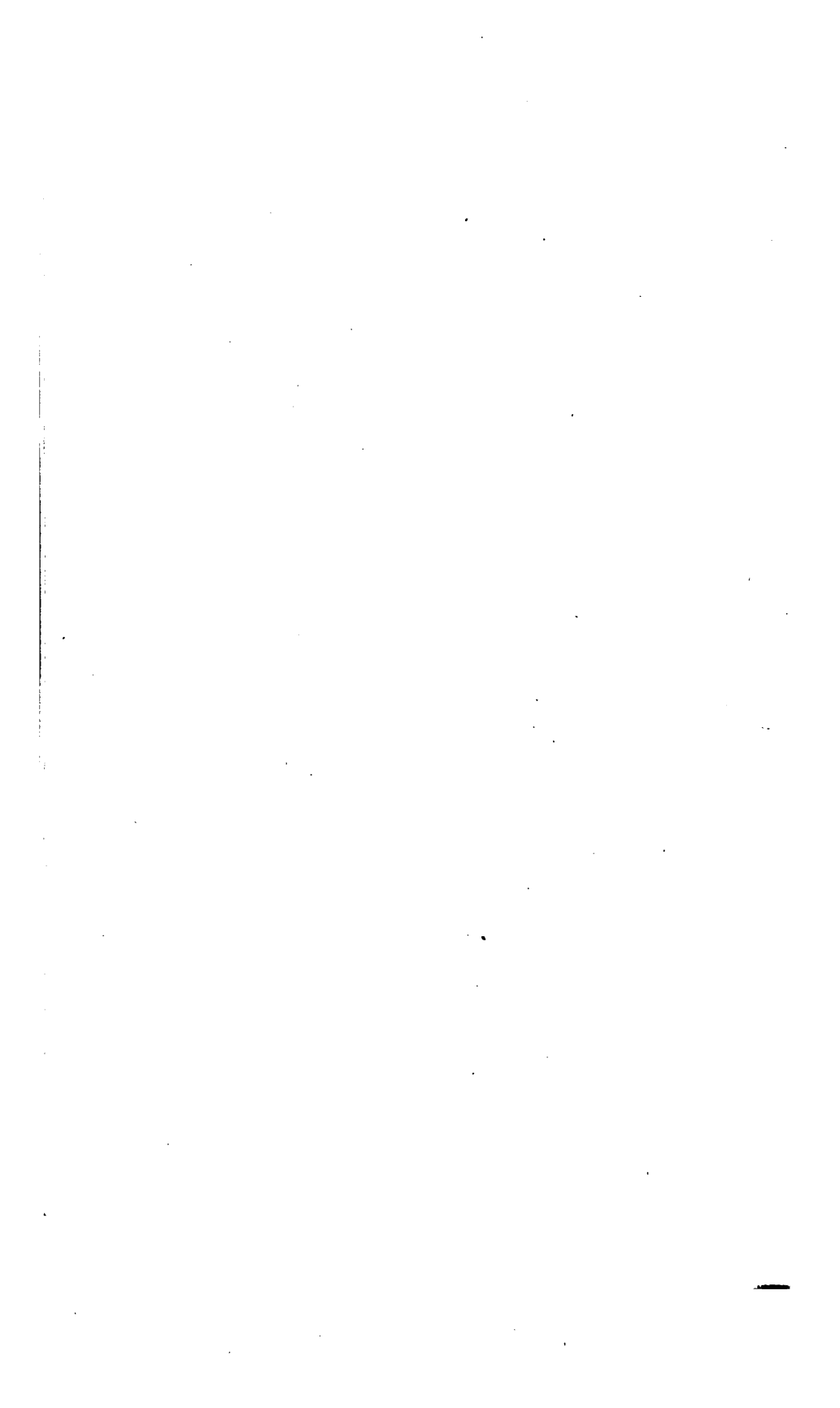
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C. Whittingham, Chiswick.

*JW*









APR 19 1945

